



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## **Boniva<sup>®</sup>**

**Generic name: Ibandronate**

**Drug type:**

Boniva is a bisphosphonate derivative.

**How Boniva is given:**

- Boniva is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).

**Side effects of Boniva:**

Important things to remember about the side effects of Boniva:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

**The following side effects are common for patients receiving Boniva:**

- Fever usually mild and short lived
- Flu-like symptoms; mild fever sometimes accompanied by malaise, chills, fatigue and flushing.

**These are less common side effects for patients receiving Boniva:**

- Flu-like symptoms with redness, pain swelling at IV site
- Bone, muscle or joint pain
- Nausea and vomiting/loss of appetite
- Blood tests indicating worsening kidney function- blood levels will be closely monitored
- Headache

Osteonecrosis of the jaw has been reported rarely in patients receiving treatment with bisphosphonates. Many of the reported cases were associated with dental procedures such as removal of a tooth. Many had signs of local infection including infection in the bone. A dental examination with appropriate preventative dentistry should be considered prior to treatment. Invasive dental procedures should be avoided during treatment.

## **When to contact your doctor or health care provider:**

Seek emergency help immediately and notify your health care provider, if you experience the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, hives (possible allergic reaction).

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience the following:

- Fever of 101°F or higher, chills, sore throat (possible signs of infection)
- Shortness of breath, chest pain or discomfort

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not emergency situations. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Vomiting (more than 4-5 episodes within a 24 hour period)
- Nausea that interferes with eating and is not relieved by medications prescribed by your doctor
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue and extreme tiredness (unable to perform self care activities)
- Feelings of confusion
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness

**Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.**