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## Osteoplastic ameloblastoma: a case report and literature review

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Ameloblastoma with bone formation is rare. We report a case of a 55-year-old woman with ameloblastoma accompanied by prominent osteoplasia. Histopathological examination exhibited an abundant stromal component between tumor nests. Therefore, she was diagnosed as the desmoplastic variant, except for the numerous bone trabeculae. The distinction between new bone formation and invasion of the bone marrow poses a problem. A thin rim of fibrous bone that can be accentuated by Masson-trichrome staining suggests the former. (Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol 2012;113:e23-e28)

During odontogenesis, enamel is formed by the odontogenic epithelium, whereas the dentin, cementum, dental pulp, and periodontal ligament are formed by the odontogenic ectomesenchyme.

Benign odontogenic tumors can be classified into 3 categories: odontogenic epithelium, mesenchyme/ odontogenic ectomesenchyme, and odontogenic epithelium with odontogenic ectomesenchyme. Ameloblastomas are categorized as odontogenic epithelium tumors. They form nests consisting of peripheral embryologic ameloblasts and a central reticulum, showing a similar morphology to the enamel organ. Despite being categorized as benign tumors, ameloblastomas have a high recurrence rate and should be treated radically.2 They are classified into solid/multicystic type, extraosseous/peripheral type, desmoplastic type, and unicystic type according to the 2005 histologic classification of tumors by the World Health Organization (WHO). Among these clinicopathological entities, desmoplastic ameloblastoma is a relatively newly reported variant added since the 1992 histologic classification of tumors by WHO, and shows characteristic features of a predilection for the anterior mandibular region and a prominent desmoplastic stroma. The desmoplastic variant of ameloblastoma was reported to be accompanied by osteoplasia.3-15

In this article, we report a new case of ameloblastoma accompanied by prominent osteoplasia and review previous case reports to investigate the clinical features, radiographs, histologic variants, and outcomes.

#### CASE REPORT

In 1999, a 55-year-old woman was referred to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of Kinki University Hospital with a complaint of swelling in the anterior mandible. She had noticed a small tumor on the right mandible 3 years previously, but was followed at a local hospital under the diagnosis of a bone fracture. She had suffered from rheumatoid arthritis since she was 40 years old. She underwent surgery for an unspecified brain tumor at 42 years of age.

In the oral cavity, broad swelling was observed on the buccal aspects of the mandible in the 33 to 46 region. The overlying mucosa appeared normal (Fig. 1). Panoramic radiography revealed an ill-defined trabeculalike opacity in the 35 to 46 region (Fig. 2). An ambiguous radiolucency was also observed. Teeth 44 and 45 were absent. There was root displacement of 2 and 3. Resorption was present at the roots of 31, 32, and 41 to 43. Computed tomography demonstrated reticular or ground glass sclerotic changes with a lack of periosteal reaction. A cystic radiolucent lesion was recognized. Fibrous dysplasia and an ossifying fibroma were suspected, as well as an epithelial odontogenic tumor and a desmoplastic ameloblastoma (Fig. 3). Magnetic resonance imaging was performed and the tumor displayed hypointensity on T1-weighted or T2-weighted scans. A cystic hyperintense area was also observed on T2-weighted scans. A fibrous tumor (e.g., metastatic tumor or fibrous dysplasia) was suspected (Fig. 4).

Under the clinical diagnosis of a mandibular tumor, an incisional biopsy was performed and the pathologic diagnosis was odontogenic fibroma at that time. An enucleation was performed under general anesthesia. Three fragments of 3.0, 1.0, and 0.8 cm in diameter were submitted for pathologic examination. Microscopic examination revealed epithelial tumor islands (Fig. 5). Columnar cells with a clear cytoplasm at the periphery of the islands showed palisading. The nuclei of

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Fig. 1. Intraoral photograph.

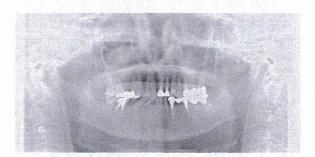


Fig. 2. Panoramic radiograph.

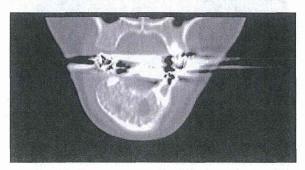


Fig. 3. Computed tomography coronal image.

these cells showed reversed polarity or localization at the opposite side to the basement membrane (Fig. 6). Cords of epithelium that appeared strangulated by stroma were also observed (Fig. 7). Nuclear atypism was not apparent. Necrosis and neural invasion were not recognized. The tumor islands were separated by an abundant stroma of fibrous connective tissue consisting of collagen fibers and fibroblast-like cells (Fig. 8). Inflammatory cell infiltration was almost imperceptible. Numerous bone trabeculae were present in the stroma. Osteoblasts partly outlined the surface of the trabeculae (Fig. 8).

Masson-trichrome staining revealed red fibrous bone at the periphery of the trabecular bone, which showed blue staining (Fig. 9). Thick fibers were inserted into the bone from the surrounding connective tissue (Fig. 10). The final diagnosis was desmoplastic ameloblastoma accompanied by prominent bone formation. There is currently no sign of recurrence at 12 months postoperatively.

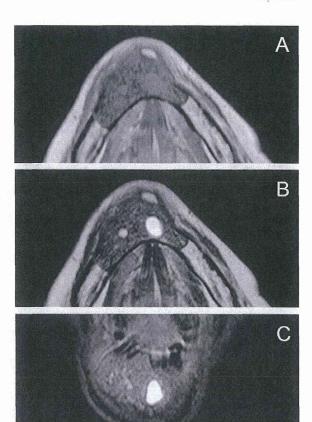


Fig. 4. Magnetic resonance images. A, T1-weighted axial image. B, T2-weighted axial image. C, Short-T1 inversion recovery sequence coronal image.

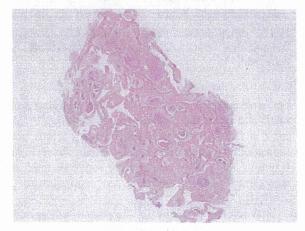


Fig. 5. Histopathologic findings (hematoxylin-eosin stain, magnification  $\times 0.35$ ). Epithelial tumor islands and an abundant stroma with numerous bone trabeculae are observed.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous case reports were retrieved from the databases MEDLINE (English literature) and Ichusi-Web (Japanese literature). The acceptance criteria were Volume 113, Number 5

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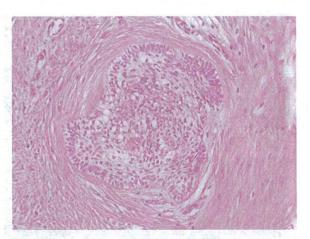


Fig. 6. Histopathologic findings (hematoxylin-eosin stain, magnification  $\times$ 14). Tumor islands showing peripheral palisading and reversed nuclear polarity are observed.

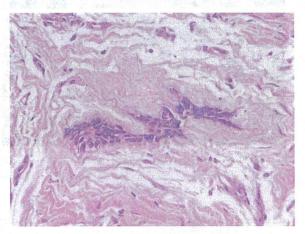


Fig. 7. Histopathologic findings (hematoxylin-eosin stain, magnification  $\times 28$ ). Strangulated cords of epithelium are observed.

(1) well-described clinical features, imaging findings, and microscopic pictures or pathologic findings; and (2) prominent osteoplasia to exclude bone invasion or nonspecific osteosclerosis of the surrounding bone. Eight cases were found in total and the clinicopathological data are summarized in Table I.

Including the present case, the patients comprised 5 males and 4 females who ranged in age from 28 to 74 years. The most common chief complaint was a mass or swelling. The mandible was involved in 6 cases and the maxilla in 3 cases. In one case, a tumor was found from the left molar to the right premolar and in another case from 33 to 34 by direct inspection, but there were no descriptions about the radiographic locations. At least the anterior region seemed to be involved in all cases.

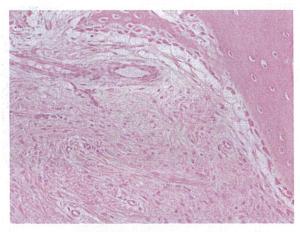


Fig. 8. Histopathologic findings (hematoxylin-eosin stain, magnification  $\times$ 14). Stroma consisting of collagen fibers and fibroblastlike cells is observed.

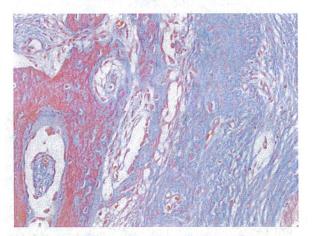


Fig. 9. Histopathologic findings (Masson-trichrome stain, magnification ×14). Red fibrous bone at the periphery of blue trabecular bone is observed.

In radiographs, the lesions exhibited trabeculalike radiopacity in 5 cases, rough radiopacity in 1 case, a honeycomb pattern in 1 case, and multilocular radiolucency with floccular radiopacities in 1 case. The borders were ill defined, in whole or part, in 5 cases and well defined in 1 case.

The clinical diagnosis was a benign tumor in 3 cases, a fibro-osseous lesion in 2 cases, and an ameloblastoma in 1 cases. A biopsy was taken in only 2 case. The pathologic diagnosis was the desmoplastic variant in 2 cases. Seven cases were reported before the publication of the 1992 WHO classification, and all the cases seemed to be categorized as the desmoplastic variant from microscopic photographs or pathologic findings.

One case showed a recurrence after 9 years owing to incomplete treatment.<sup>8</sup> Among 6 patients who under-

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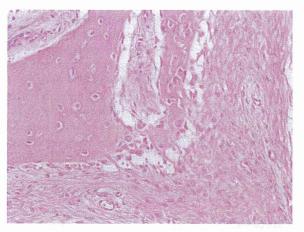


Fig. 10. Histopathologic findings (hematoxylin-eosin stain, magnification  $\times$ 14). Insertion of thick fibers into the bone is observed.

went a resection, follow-up data (from 14 months to 4 years) were available for 5 patients and no recurrence was reported.

#### DISCUSSION

Ameloblastoma accompanied by prominent osteoplasia is rare, and only 8 previous case reports since 1983 in the English and Japanese literature fulfilled the criteria described previously.

The clinical symptoms of swelling or a mass are similar to conventional ameloblastoma. Some case reports were omitted because the osteoplasia was localized or a detailed description was absent. All the reported cases were accompanied by desmoplasia and seemed to be categorized as desmoplastic ameloblastoma. Furthermore, the anterior region of the mandible or maxilla was involved in all cases, and this is a characteristic of desmoplastic ameloblastoma. Accordingly the control of the mandible or maxilla was involved in all cases, and this is a characteristic of desmoplastic ameloblastoma.

In radiographs, only I case showed radiolucency, which is seen in classic ameloblastoma.2 The other cases showed mixed radiolucent/radiopaque appearances, resembling typical desmoplastic ameloblastoma, despite the prominent osteoplasia. For this reason, it is suggested that new bone formation can be detected by extensive investigation of typical desmoplastic ameloblastoma. 10,17 There is another view that the highly invasive nature of desmoplastic ameloblastomas leads to invasion of the bone marrow space, which causes unique radiographic features and an ill-defined border. 14,18 In fact, desmoplastic ameloblastoma with peripheral osteoplasia has a well-defined border rather than an ill-defined border. 19 Peripheral-type desmoplastic ameloblastoma, in which invasion to the bone marrow space is absent by definition, was recently reported.20,21 Although there were no detailed de-

Table I. Clinicopathologic features

Year	Source	Age, Y	Gender	Age, y Gender Location	Clinical presentation	Radiograph	Margin	Clinical diagnosis Variant Treatment	Variant	Treatment	Ошсоте
1983	Uji et al.	28	M	33-35	Swelling	Punctate and trabeculalike	III defined	Ameloblastoma	ON	ND Seg	3 y 3 m NED
						opacity					
9861	1986 Okada et al.	3	<u>'1</u>	ON	Swelling	Trabeculalike opacity	S S	Fibro-osscous	Ê	Par	2 y 8 m NED
								lesion			
1987	1987 Fujimoto et al.	72	M	31-38, 41-46	Swelling	Punctate and trabeculalike	III defined	Mandibular tumor	QN.	Seg	2 y 8 m NED
						opacity with unilocular					
						radiolucency					
066	1990 Takeda et al.	39	Σ	ND	Swelling	ND	ND	Fibro-osseous	S	Seg	14 m NED
								lesion			
166	1991 Takemoto et al.	49	$\boxtimes$	22-25	Mass	Rough opacity	NO ON	Benign tumor	S	Par	4 y NED
1661	Ishigami et al.	64	Ţ	22-26	Mass	Honeycomb appearance	Well defined	Benign tumor	ND	Enuc + cur	ON
1992	Nakashima et al.	74	17	11-13	Swelling	Trabeculalike opacity	III defined	Benign tumor	SN	Enuc	4 y NED
1992	Phillipsen et al.	55	Σ	33-37	Slow-growing firm lesion	Multilocular radioluceney with	Well/III defined	ON	DA	Mar	ND
						floccular radiopacities					
2010	2010 Present study	55	Ĭ.	31-35, 41-46	Mass	Trabeculalike opacity	III defined	Mandibular tumor	DA	DA Enuc	12 m NED

eur. curettage: DA. desmoplastic ameloblastoma; Enuc, enucleation; mar; marginal block resection; pur, partial resection; «g, segmental resection.

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scriptions about radiographs, a mixed radiolucent/radiopaque appearance was not mentioned.

Only 1 of the 9 cases could be diagnosed as ameloblastoma by diagnostic imaging. In cases with a fibroosseous lesion in the bones of the jaw, a biopsy should be taken.<sup>22</sup> In such biopsies, the calcified tissue in odontogenic tumors can be enamel, dentin, cementum, or bone tissue. Enamel disappears during the decalcification process, although some acidophilic material with or without a prism boundary is occasionally left. Neoplastic enamel formation is relatively rare and almost always requires the preexistence of dentin. Dentin has tubules and a circular structure. Both cementum and bone tissue are derived from the ectomesenchyme, and it is therefore difficult to distinguish between these 2 calcified tissues. The prototypic cementum is adherent to the root of the tooth, has a solid form, and is devoid of a lamellar structure. In the present case, most of the calcified tissue was separated from the tooth and had a trabecular form with a lamellar structure, suggesting that the calcified tissue was bone.

The invasive nature of desmoplastic ameloblastoma into the bone marrow space obscures the issue of whether the bone tissue in the tumor is preexisting bone trabeculae or osteoplasia. Because the tumor border is ill defined in radiographs, the tumor size can be underestimated. In the present case, the presence of peripheral uncalcified fibrous bone gave the impression of newly forming bone rather than destroyed trabecular bone. Fibrous bone can be recognized using Masson-trichrome staining. In addition, calcified trabeculae show morphologic abnormalities, such as fusion or thickening, and dense osteoblasts, indicating newly forming bone.

Desmoplastic ameloblastoma has 2 characteristic features, namely a fibrous stoma and squeezed tumor islands, <sup>10</sup> and a biopsy specimen may not contain tumor islands similar to the enamel organ. Without knowledge that ameloblastoma can be accompanied by osteoplasia and with limited observations from a biopsy, pathologists may misdiagnose this lesion as odontogenic fibroma showing strands of epithelium and calcification. This differential diagnosis is important because the first choice for odontogenic fibroma is enucleation, unlike ameloblastoma.

It is well known that classic ameloblastoma or desmoplastic ameloblastoma can recur after inadequate excision. This is also the case for ameloblastoma accompanied by osteoplasia. The present patient received only enucleation and needed long-term follow-up. At least, there were no reports of recurrence after radical treatment among the 8 previous cases.

The pathogenesis of the bone formation is not clear. Tumor growth factor-beta is expressed in the tumor cells of desmoplastic ameloblastoma, and may be associated with osteoplasia, rather than only desmoplasia. <sup>23</sup> Interestingly, there is a case report of ameloblastic carcinoma with prominent osteoplasia. <sup>24</sup> Bone morphologic proteins may play a role in a similar way to heterotopic ossification in extraoral lesions. <sup>25</sup> Further studies on this type of tumor are necessary. However, use of immunostaining methods may be difficult because decalcification is required for bone sectioning and this process severely attenuates the immunogenicity. Newly developed techniques, such as film-transfer methods like the Kawamoto method, may solve this problem and provide insights into the pathogenesis.

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# Suppurative Arthritis of the Temporomandibular Joint Associated With Bisphosphonate: A Case Report

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The prevalence of bisphosphonate-related osteone-crosis of the jaw (BRONJ) has recently increased, and this condition is difficult to manage. A patient is diagnosed with BRONJ if the following 3 characteristics are present: 1) current or previous treatment with a bisphosphonate (BP), 2) exposed bone in the maxillofacial region that has persisted for more than 8 weeks, and 3) no history of radiotherapy of the jaws. BPs are potent inhibitors of osteoclastic bone resorption for the control of hypercalcemia associated with malignancy, multiple myeloma, metastatic bone disease, and bone loss resulting from breast cancer treatment. Other well-established indications are osteoporosis and Paget disease of bone. 5,6

Suppurative arthritis of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is not common. It arises either from hematogenous spread of microorganisms through the highly vascularized synovial membrane or from direct extension of contiguous infection.<sup>7,8</sup> Several cases have been reported in the literature, <sup>9-13</sup> and most of them are associated with predisposing factors. Suppurative arthritis of the TMJ has multiple etiologies including trauma, head and neck infection, extraction of a third molar, TMJ arthrosis, or TMJ arthroscopy.

Suppurative arthritis of the TMJ associated with BP administration has not been previously reported. We present a rare case of suppurative arthritis of the TMJ

associated with chronic BP treatment and describe our management strategy.

### **Case Report**

A 70-year-old Japanese man complaining of pain in the left TMJ and severely restricted mouth opening was referred to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Kinki University School of Medicine, Osaka-Sayama, Japan, in November 2010. Obvious left-sided preauricular swelling was observed. Oral examination showed a maximal incisor opening of 10 mm. The visual analog scale score for TMJ pain on mouth opening was 8.0. Intraorally, the second and third molars of the left mandible showed periodontal disease, and the root surfaces were visible. The alveolar bone in the same region was exposed, and severe inflammation of the surrounding soft tissue was observed. Blood tests showed a C-reactive protein level of 15.1 mg/dL. His white blood cell count was 10,900/mm<sup>3</sup>, and leukocytosis with polymorphonuclear left cell shift was evident.

Panoramic radiography showed no left condylar deformation and showed that the second and third molars of the left mandible had a periapical radiolucent region (Fig 1). The condylar head was present. Computed tomography showed little cortical erosion or periapical disease of the second and third molars of the left mandible. Magnetic resonance (MR) imaging showed a left condylar collection of intra-articular fluid with upper and lower capsular distension on the T2-weighted images. A homogeneous intermediate signal from the condylar head was evident on the proton density and T2-weighted images. MR classification of the bone marrow of the mandibular condyles was graded type I according to Sano and Westesson's classification (Fig 2). 14

The patient's medical history included monthly intravenous infusion of zoledronate, a BP agent, for approximately 2 years, from April 2008 to March 2010, because of prostate carcinoma with distant bone metastasis. There was no recent history of TMJ trauma or invasive dental procedures. Before referral to our hospital, the patient had taken several types of antibiotics at the previous dental clinic.

We clinically diagnosed the present case as suppurative arthritis of the TMJ associated with BRONJ and treated the patient with intravenous broad-spectrum antibiotics (piperacillin and clindamycin). At the same time, aspiration of the left TMJ was performed with the patient under local anesthesia. Yellowish white fluid was obtained from the lower joint cavity and was sent for culture and histopathologic examination (Fig 3A). In addition, suppurative material obtained from the periodontal pocket at the exposed alveolar bone was sent for histopathologic examination. *Prevotella* 

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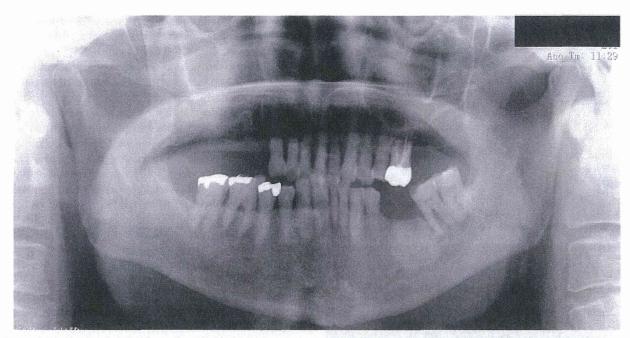
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**FIGURE 1.** Panoramic radiograph at the initial presentation shows no deformity of the left condyle. The second and third molars of the left mandible showed periodontal disease and pathologic signs in the neighboring bone.

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buccae, Haemophilus, and Streptococcus were cultured from both the lower joint cavity fluid and the material from the periodontal pocket. The Streptococcus was found to be multidrug-resistant viridans group streptococcus (MDRVS), and this organism was resistant to ampicillin, levofloxacin, gatifloxacin, azithromycin, clarithromycin, or clindamycin but was susceptible to meropenem and vancomycin. On the basis of these findings, the patient's antibiotic therapy was



**FIGURE 2.** Magnetic resonance imaging showed a collection of intra-articular fluid with upper and lower capsular distension on T2-weighted images.

Enomoto et al. Suppurative Arthritis of BP-Associated TMJ. J Oral Maxillofac Surg 2012. changed to intravenous meropenem. In addition, a preauricular lateral incision that reached the lower joint cavity was made, and daily irrigation was performed. The lower joint cavity was then drained by placement of a gauze drain. The periodontal pockets of the second and third molars of the left mandible were irrigated intraorally, and the irrigation was continued until the fluid was clear. The second and third molars of the left mandible fell out after 2 months of irrigation. The visual analog scale score for TMJ pain on mouth opening improved to 1.0. Furthermore, biopsy of the alveolar tissue was performed to rule out a primary malignancy and make a definitive diagnosis. Histopathologic examination showed mandibular sequestration with no prostate metastatic tissue.

After 3 months, the permanent fistula in the TMJ was still present (Fig 3B), and a small amount of exposed bone was noted in the cavities of the left mandible where the 2 teeth had fallen out during irrigation. However, there was no evidence of acute infection, and the patient continued to receive local irrigation.

For this presentation, our research was approved by the review board of Kinki University School of Medicine.

#### Discussion

This is the first report of suppurative arthritis of the TMJ associated with chronic BP therapy. Intravenous BP therapy has been prescribed to treat patients with several different cancers that have metastasized to the bone or that are primarily present in bone. Patients with metastatic prostate cancer and other metastatic solid tumors have also been treated with intravenous BPs.





**FIGURE 3.** A, Yellowish white joint fluid was aspirated from the area with lower capsular distension of the TMJ. B, The permanent fistula at the TMJ was still present, even after the symptoms of inflammation had disappeared.

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No clear consensus has been established on the optimal management of suppurative arthritis of the TMJ because there have only been a few reported cases.7 Antibiotic therapy, adequate drainage, and joint immobilization are considered important components of treatment. In the acute stage, intravenous antibiotics should be started immediately when suppurative arthritis has been diagnosed. Recent studies of TMJ infection have shown that microorganisms are most commonly seeded hematogenously. 7,8 The main pathogens that have been isolated in suppurative arthritis of the TMJ include Staphylococcus aureus, Neisseria, Haemophilus influenzae, and Streptococcus.8,11 Broad-spectrum antibiotics such as penicillin or cephalosporins are commonly used. These agents are given intravenously at first, but their administration can be changed to an oral regimen after the joint infection is under control. Once the results of the culture and antibiotic sensitivity tests have been obtained, the choice of antibiotics should be modified. In this case MDRVS was identified as a pathogen for suppurative arthritis. <sup>15</sup> This was probably because the patient received several different types of antibiotics for BRONJ before being referred to our department. Intravenous doripenem and vancomycin were suitable and effective. In addition, continuous local irrigation with saline solution from the preauricular fistula was performed after the symptoms of inflammation had disappeared. It has been reported that microorganisms can remain in the synovial fluid and are not completely eradicated by the bactericidal action of antibiotics. <sup>16</sup> Therefore sterilization of the joint space requires both antibiotics and removal of the infected synovial fluid.

In our case the exudate obtained from the periodontal pocket at the exposed alveolar bone of the second and third molars of the left mandible was sent for culture and histopathologic examination. The same type of MDRVS was also cultured in the irrigation fluid from the TMJ. Thus the route of infection could be considered hematogenous in this case. The second and third molars of the left mandible showed periodontal disease, and the alveolar bone in the same region was exposed. Inflammation of the surrounding soft tissue was observed. However, computed tomography, MR imaging, and clinical findings showed no symptoms of inflammation in the tissue between the infected molars and TMJ. Therefore it is doubtful that the route of infection was contiguous or by direct inoculation, especially because the hematogenous spread of bacteria was highly probable in this case. The synovium, which has high vascularity and no limiting basement membrane, was particularly vulnerable to hematogenous spread and induced suppurative arthritis of the TMJ associated with BP administration. A small amount of bacteria may not be sufficient to induce symptoms of suppurative arthritis of the TMJ, although bacteria are frequently present in the synovial fluid of the TMJ.17 In this case, when immunologic balance in the host was compromised, symptoms of suppurative arthritis of the TMJ were detected. The infection subsequently progressed into the lower joint cavity surrounded by the synovial membrane, which was observed as joint fluid on MR images. The inflammation progressed into soft tissue at the preauricular area through the prominent synovial membrane.

The original infection was BRONJ. The infection of the TMJ joint due to BRONJ may not become sterile after drainage, as long as there is osteonecrosis of the mandible. Therefore the clinical treatment objectives could be to eliminate pain, control infection of the hard and soft tissue, and minimize progression or occurrence of bony necrosis to avoid TMJ adhesions. The treatment should involve the use of frequent irrigation combined with antibiotics. Current guide-