**Weekly Roundup**

**Biphosphonate Drugs**
Drugs containing biphosphonates may place those taking them at risk for development of osteonecrosis of the jaws. Such drugs are usually given to breast cancer patients, patients of specific types of bone cancer therapies and those at risk for osteoporosis. This news comes from a literature review and case report in the May/June 2006 issue of General Dentistry, which is a clinical, peer-reviewed journal by the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). The jawbone has a rapid cell turnover rate, so the presence of biphosphonates can mean that it is prevented from healing properly after dental surgery or an extraction because the drugs can remain in the bone indefinitely.

**Pregnancy Cravings**
Some pregnant women suffer from an eating disorder called pica that causes them to crave freezer frost, ice or even soil. This comes from a study that appeared in the May/June edition of General Dentistry by the AGD. When combined with bulimia, pica can severely affect a mother’s oral health during pregnancy and it can be difficult to diagnose and treat during that time. As a compulsive eating disorder, pica sufferers have an appetite for non-nutritious materials. The connection between pica and bulimia and their causes are not known, but cultural and physiological factors have been suggested, as well as depression or iron and zinc deficiencies.

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**I.D. Tech Reaches Dentistry**

**3,400 Flock to Hawaii Event**

The winners of the AAE’s highest honors: Drs. Andris Jaunberzins, Rafael Miñana, Synguk Kim, Harmon R. Katz, Leif Tronstad, Thomas P. Mullaney, and John M. Nusstein.

**AAE ’06 Focuses on “Raising the Bar”**

LAS VEGAS—Attendees of the 2006 Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists packed the Honolulu Convention Center from March 29 through April 1 for education and networking surrounding the theme “Raising the Bar—Elevating the Standard of Endodontic Care”. Though inclement weather may have disappointed many Hawaiian visitors, it certainly made for a successful meeting—just over 3,400 AAE members, exhibitors and guests crowded lecture rooms, workshops and the exhibit hall.

This year’s event showcased many new and special services due to the island venue. A shortened meeting schedule offered traditional luncheon events in a breakfast format, and an early end to educational sessions. The shortening of educational sessions was caused by an electronic reader to send out a code which can be picked up by an electronic reader to send out a code which can be picked up. This code can be linked to a database containing a person’s details or, as Dr Thevissen suggests, spell out simple information directly.