



# Bone Grafting

Your Guide To Restoring Your Smile



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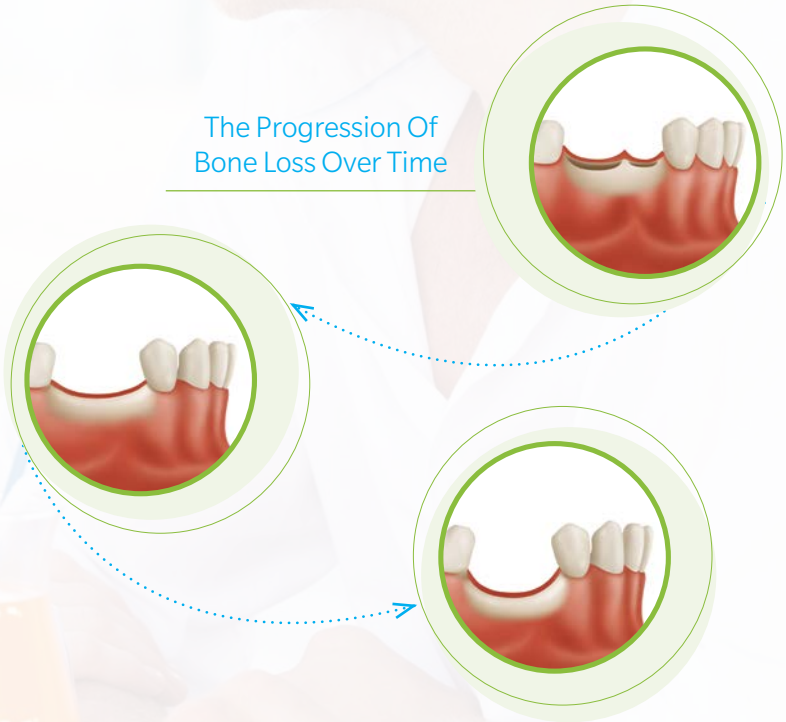
## Why Do I Need Bone Grafting?

Bone Grafting is used to prepare a site for dental implants that are needed to replace a missing tooth or teeth. In an area where teeth have been lost, bone naturally shrinks or resorbs over time, both in height and width. As a result, new bone must be grafted to create a secure site for placing implants and to achieve aesthetic results. Bone Grafting can also be used to save teeth that have experienced bone loss as a result of gum disease.

### Bone Loss Can Be Caused By:

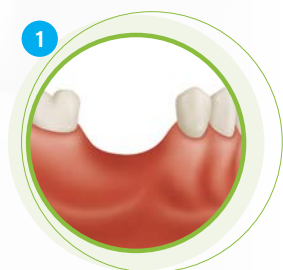
- The loss of a tooth
- Gum disease
- Localized infection
- Trauma

### The Progression Of Bone Loss Over Time

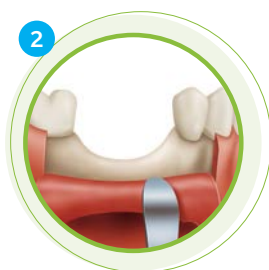


## What Can I Expect From A Bone Grafting Procedure?

Prior to your procedure, your doctor will go over any pre-operative instructions you should follow, as well as any specifics about the surgical process. The following general steps may be included:



1 A local anesthetic is applied to the grafting site.



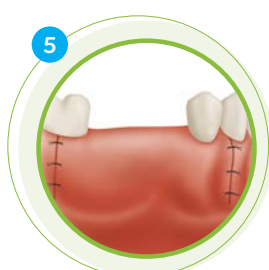
2 A small opening is made in the area where bone is needed.



3 The grafting material is gently placed within the grafting site, alongside the existing bone.



4 The area is stabilized with a protective covering.



5 The area is sutured—stitches will either dissolve or be removed by your doctor in 7 to 10 days. Allow approximately 3 to 6 months for healing.

## Where Does Grafted Bone Come From?

For years, the bone needed for a Bone Grafting procedure had to be taken from another part of your jaw or body, requiring additional surgery. Today, bone grafting materials may be used in place of your own bone, with no additional surgery required. Commercially available bone grafts are derived from human donors, animal bone, or synthetic (man-made) bone. During the healing process the graft material is intended to act as a scaffold and be replaced by your own newly regenerated bone.

## How Can I Reduce The Risk Of Bone Loss In The Future?

The risk of bone loss can be reduced by replacing lost teeth quickly, before significant bone loss occurs. If you're not ready for dental implants at the time that your teeth are lost or removed, your doctor may recommend a Ridge Preservation procedure to maintain the bone in that area until your implants can be placed.

## What Are The Potential Benefits of Bone Grafting?

Bone Grafting is a process that assists your body in regenerating lost bone. Over time, techniques and materials have steadily improved, limiting the need to use bone taken from another part of your body.

### Additional Potential Benefits May Include:

- Growth of new bone to restore lost bone
- Creation of a suitable environment for implant placement

While this brochure is designed to address some of the frequently asked questions about Bone Grafting, your doctor remains your best source for information regarding Bone Grafting and whether this procedure is right for you. Your doctor will advise you on specific procedural expectations, warnings, risks, contraindications and potential adverse effects associated with the Bone Grafting procedure. Your doctor will provide you with individual post-operative care instructions and will answer any additional questions or concerns you may have regarding the procedure.



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