



## **Bone Grafting**

Over a period of time, the jawbone associated with missing teeth atrophies or is reabsorbed. This often causes a condition in which there is poor quality and quantity of bone suitable for placement of dental implants. In these situations, most patients are not candidates for placement of dental implants.

We now have the ability to grow bone where needed. This not only gives us the opportunity to place implants of proper length and width, but it also gives us a chance to restore functionality and esthetic appearance. The bone graft procedures are referred to as:

### ***Sinus lift procedure***

This procedure involves elevating the sinus membrane and placing the bone graft onto the sinus floor, allowing implants to be placed in the back part of the upper jaw.

### ***Ridge-augmentation***

In severe cases the ridge has been reabsorbed and a bone graft is placed to increase the ridge height and/or width.

New techniques involving moving segments of your own bone with mechanical distracting devices are proving to be very successful and can decrease the time needed for reconstruction. This technique is called osseous distraction and can be of great help in areas which before were very difficult to bone graft in the conventional fashion.

New implants allow us to place smaller implants in less bone and achieve the same results.

### ***Nerve-repositioning***

The inferior alveolar nerve, which gives feeling to the lower lip and chin, may need to be moved in order to make room for placement of dental implants to the lower jaw.

These procedures may be performed separately or together, depending upon the individual's condition. There are several areas of the body that are suitable for attaining bone grafts. In the maxillofacial region, bone grafts can be taken from inside the mouth, in the area of the chin or third molar region or in the upper jaw behind the last tooth. In more extensive situations, a greater quantity of bone can be attained from the hip or the outer aspect of the tibia at the knee.

Most of these surgeries are performed in the office surgical suite under I.V. sedation or general anesthesia. Contact Carle Clinic Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at (217) 383-3280.