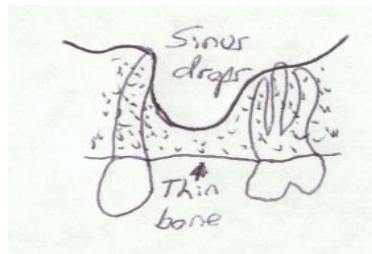
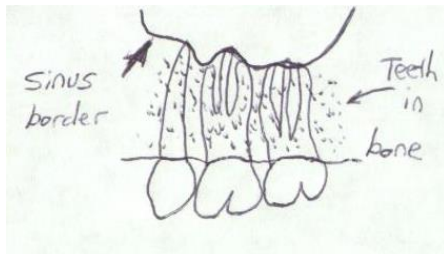




SINUS GRAFT

When implants need to be placed into the upper back regions of the mouth, we sometimes find there is not enough bone to provide proper support. Look at Drawing A below. This schematic shows the normal level of the sinus when teeth are present. After tooth loss, the sinus drops, and the level of bone decreases (Drawing B). An implant cannot be placed without increasing the level of bone again. Drawing C shows the restored level of bone after the sinus graft.



HOW IS THIS PROCEDURE PERFORMED?

A small window is made in the bone where the graft needs to be placed. We carefully lift the sinus membrane (a thin, tissue-like material), add the bone, and that's it!

IT SOUNDS PAINFUL.

Surprisingly, it rarely is. You will be given a few prescriptions to help take care of any pain. Some swelling and bruising is possible, but again, this is variable. Oftentimes we will prescribe other medications to help with swelling, bruising, and infection.

WHAT TYPE OF ANESTHETIC WILL YOU USE?

This procedure only requires local anesthetic (novocaine). However, some patients want to be asleep. In these cases, we work with an anesthesiologist who can provide IV sedation right in the office!

IS THIS A SAFE PROCEDURE?

Absolutely. With any surgical procedure there is always risk of infection, but sinus grafting has become a very routine part of implant dentistry.

CAN YOU PLACE THE IMPLANTS AT THE SAME TIME THE GRAFT IS DONE?

Sometimes. It depends upon the amount of bone available.

IS THERE ANY PRELIMINARY TESTING REQUIRED BEFORE THE GRAFT IS PERFORMED?

A CT scan is usually required.

ARE THERE VARIATIONS OF THIS PROCEDURE?

Yes. Sometimes we can avoid the window and lift the sinus directly from the implant site. This is called a "sinus bump," a "closed-lift," or a "Summers Lift." This procedure is only advised where the sinus needs to be lifted just a few millimeters.



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