



Dental Implant Bone Grafting Information

Bone Grafts

Oral surgeons perform the majority of implant procedures. Dr. Stevens is one of only a handful of dentists in Lancaster that are qualified and experienced in placing dental implants. Dr. Stevens is also qualified to perform bone grafting prior to implant placement. Bone grafts are sometimes necessary to supplement the bone mass of a patient's jaw to ensure that the dental implant is properly anchored.

Loss of bone volume can be caused by a variety of factors including infection, trauma, and gum disease. If a tooth was lost long ago and the patient is looking into dental implant surgery, it's likely that the bone around the lost tooth has degenerated and needs to be augmented before it can support an implant. The bone where a tooth has been removed will decrease in height and width by around 30% within six months to one year.

A patient's need for bone grafting may become apparent at the time of the pre-surgery X-ray. Sometimes, inadequate bone volume is not discovered until the dentist actually begins dental implant surgery. In this case, the dental implant procedure will be halted and Dr. Stevens will perform a bone graft. Since it takes several months for the grafted material to fuse with your existing bone, Dr. Stevens typically waits three to six months to place dental implants after the initial bone grafting procedure.

101 N. Pointe Blvd. Suite 201 Lancaster PA 17601

717.581.0123 | dental@smilesbystevensdmd.com

Dental implants provide strong, comfortable and long-lasting tooth replacement. Bone grafting, when necessary is a rewarding and worthwhile procedure that greatly improves the success rate for dental implants. Utilizing advanced diagnostic technology and surgical expertise, Dr. Stevens will help you attain the beautiful smile you deserve. Call to have a dental implant evaluation and find out if you are a candidate.

Post-operative instructions following bone grafting:

1. Do not be alarmed by small granules in your mouth for the first several days. It's normal to have some of them come out of the graft site and into your mouth.
2. Do not vigorously rinse or spit for the first 24 hours. Rinse gently with prescription rinse called Chlorhexidine. **ABSOLUTELY NO WATER PIKS**
3. Do not apply pressure with your tongue or fingers to the grafted area, as the material is movable during the initial healing.
4. Do not lift or pull on the lip to look at the sutures. This can cause damage to the wound site and tear the sutures. Please take all prescribed medication and complete all antibiotics.
5. Please take all prescribed medication and complete all antibiotics.
6. Eat soft food and avoid sticky food for 7-14 days.
7. Call our office if you have any problems or questions concerning your surgery.

Most dentists in Lancaster do not offer dental implants. Contact Dr. Shea F. Stevens to schedule a consultation at 717.581.0123.

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