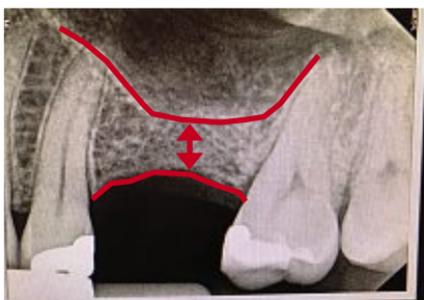


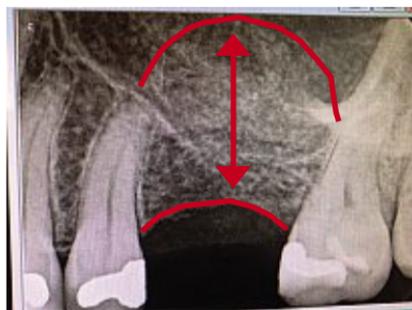
“Hey Doc, my teeth have been missing for a while. Do I still have enough bone for dental implant? (Bone grafting for dental implant, Part 4: Sinus Augmentation)”

People who have lost their back teeth in the upper jaw, the molars and the premolars, often do not have enough bone for dental implants. Above the upper back teeth on both the right and the left sides are the maxillary sinuses. The maxillary sinuses are basically air chambers and they often “pneumatize” (expand) after the upper back teeth are lost. As they pneumatize, they reduce the amount of bone available underneath them for dental implant placement.



BEFORE

Sinus augmentation, also called sinus lift, is a procedure that allows bone to be added to the sinus in order to facilitate dental implant placement. The procedure involves “lifting” up the membrane that lines the sinus cavity, thereby creating a space between the membrane and bone in the sinus. Then, either patient’s own bone, cadaver bone, bovine bone, man-made bone substitutes, or a combination of the different types of bone, is added to the space. Over time, the body will replace the bone added to the sinus with its own bone.



AFTER

Example of “direct” sinus bone augmentation by Dr. Sun

Direct sinus lift involves creating a “window” in the bone overlying the sinus cavity so that the sinus membrane can be lifted off the bone with direct access and visualization. Indirect sinus lift is a blind procedure in which the sinus membrane is pushed up without direct access to the membrane via the use of special instruments. Generally speaking, Indirect sinus lift is less invasive. However, if a large amount of bone is needed in the sinus, direct sinus lift is the choice of treatment.



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