

Inserting Bone Crystals

When your teeth are missing, the jaw bone that previously supported those teeth deteriorates and shrinks. Inserting Bone Crystals help keep the architecture of your bone and provide adequate support for future dental treatment.

Bone crystals for Implants

For dental implants to be successful, the jawbone must have enough bone to support them. You may not have enough bone because of tooth loss from periodontal (gum) disease, injury or trauma, or an infection. If your jaw is too short (up and down), too narrow (side to side), or both, you will need a procedure to add bone to your jaw before Implants can be placed.



Before

After

Bone augmentation is a term that is used to "build" bone. These procedures typically involve adding bone crystals to the jaw, and then waiting for the material to fuse with the existing bone over several months. After bone-augmentation, the waiting period for inserting implants is usually 3 to 6 months, although sometimes they may be placed sooner.

A Typical Bone-Augmentation Procedure

In a typical situation, a patient has a tooth that is unhealthy and can't be saved and wants to have it extracted and replaced with a crown supported by a dental implant. The tooth is extracted and bone crystals are immediately inserted to maintain the architecture of the bone. Then the implant is inserted.

Success of Bone Grafting

The success rate for bone grafts in the jaw is very high (98%). Bone grafts are not rejected like organ transplants. Certain people — such as those who smoke and those with certain medical conditions — have a higher risk of graft failure than others. A failed graft will be removed. Once the area has healed, your dentist can place a second graft.