

Stephen Kelso

dental implants | oral surgery

Maxillary sinus grafting will involve the augmentation of the enlarged sinus cavity with bone substitute materials. Please kindly find enclosed additional information on this procedure.

Maxillary sinus cavity grafting/augmentation:

Your clinical and radiographic examination reveals that there is lack of adequate bone at the back of your upper jaw due to enlargement of the maxillary sinuses (air cavities on both sides of the nose) and resorption of alveolar bone. The reduced height of bone below the floor of the sinus cavity will, therefore, necessitate a maxillary sinus grafting and augmentation procedure. As we discussed during your visit, this will involve lifting the floor of the maxillary sinus cavity and augmentation of the space with bone. We will endeavour to place implants at the time of sinus grafting, however if implant stability cannot be achieved then a staged sinus graft procedure will be necessary. The graft is normally allowed to mature for a period of 7-8 months before implants can be placed at a later date. They are then allowed to integrate for a further period of 3-4 months before the restorative phase of the implant treatment can be undertaken.

As we have also discussed, maxillary sinus grafting procedure is currently carried out using bone substitute materials (bovine bone such as Bio-oss and Bio-gide). Research evidence and clinical experience suggests that the success rate of bone augmentation and sinus grafting procedure carried out using bone substitute materials could be as predictable/successful as grafting carried out using autogenic bone grafts from the hip or chin.

Although this procedure is very successful and predictable, you should nevertheless be aware that rare but possible complications of such surgery include recurrent sinus infections, failure of the bone graft to heal and infection of the implant fixtures. If these complications occur you can be treated both surgically and medically to resolve the problems.

After the sinus grafting procedure you should expect to have moderate to severe swelling and bruising lasting a few days. In rare cases, recurrence of sinus infections can occur which might necessitate the use of further courses of antibiotics.

Although there is a very good possibility that your sinus grafting and subsequent implant placement will proceed without any complications there is always the remote possibility that you may have to consider wearing removable conventional dentures if the implant treatment is ultimately unsuccessful.

The prognosis for the proposed implant treatment is expected to be good in the long term.

As we discussed, long term clinical and experimental data suggests the success rate of dental implant treatment is very good, in the region of approximately 95%. This success rate is slightly lower in the case of implant treatment carried out in previously grafted sites where the success may be approximately 90% which still represents a very high and predictable rate.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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