



## ***What You Need To Know About Oral Bone Loss***

### *Preserving Your Health And Appearance*

If you have missing teeth, you could be at an increased risk for oral bone loss. Ask your dentist today about treatments for slowing oral bone loss or replacing bone that has been lost.



## ***What Is Oral Bone Loss?***

Oral bone loss can result from trauma, tumors or more commonly, loss of natural teeth. A diagnosis of oral bone loss indicates that a person no longer has bone where nature intended.

## ***What Are The Consequences Of Oral Bone Loss?***

Oral bone loss compromises healthy teeth and causes a loss of facial contours. Preserving oral bone may help maintain your natural facial appearance. Those who have significant oral bone loss also face losing additional teeth and are at higher risk for injury resulting from fracture of their jaw.<sup>1</sup>



*Healthy jaw with no missing teeth.*



*Bone loss in jaw resulting from not replacing missing teeth.*



*Healthy lower jaw bone with no missing teeth.*



*Lower jaw bone with additional bone loss over time.*

### ***Reference***

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. U.S. Public Health Service. 2000. *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Washington, D.C.: GPO.



### ***How Can I Benefit From Oral Bone Treatment?***

Treating areas with existing bone loss, as well as areas at risk for accelerated bone loss (such as places where teeth used to be), may prevent additional tooth and oral bone loss. Because the upper and lower jaw bone create the shape for the lower third of your face, preserving or rebuilding oral bone can help to preserve your appearance through time.

If you have experienced bone loss anywhere in your upper or lower jaw, your dentist may recommend treatment that can significantly slow or even repair that oral bone loss. There is a wide variety of options available to patients who suffer from bone loss.

### ***Am I A Candidate For Oral Bone Treatment?***

Only your dentist can say for sure, but many patients with oral bone loss can benefit from oral bone treatment. Your dentist will want to evaluate you carefully with an examination and x-rays and will make specific recommendations to you about the best treatment for your oral bone loss. Ask your dentist today how you might benefit from treatment for oral bone loss.



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