

Bone Grafting

Loss of bone or defects of the jaws can result from various reasons, including the removal of teeth or as a result of the long term loss of teeth, as well as from the removal of diseases or lesions of the jaws. The replacement of the bone is often needed to in order to re-establish both form and function of the jaws. Placement of dental implants to replace missing teeth requires sufficient bone to house the implants. When there is insufficient bone to hold the implant bone grafting can be performed to recreate the lost bone. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons have extensive surgical training in restoring lost bone through grafting techniques. In most cases they can harvest bone from areas of excess bone in the jaws to graft into the needed location. In more extensive reconstruction cases, oral and maxillofacial surgeons are qualified and trained to remove bone from the bones of the hip, skull, and ribs in a hospital setting.