

# Bone Graft Surgery

1. You have just had surgery completed for the reduction of pocketing and/or for replacement of bone in an area where pathology existed; or in conjunction with dental implant placement. Whether you were put to sleep for this procedure or were only given local anesthesia, the post operative directions remain the same.
2. You may have several sutures (stitches) placed at the surgical site. These sutures may or may not be resorbable. If you have been told that you have received external silk sutures they have to be removed by us. It is imperative that you do not pull up your lips or cheeks to show or examine the area. The pressure may cause the sutures to widen away from the surgical site, expose bone, create more pain, and delay healing dramatically. The sutures will remain in place between 7- 14 days depending on the size of the graft, the severity of the pathology, and the condition of the tissue being sutured.
3. Your doctor will tell you what time period to expect. Remember though that this is not etched in stone, and that the doctor may extend the time before your sutures are removed to assure adequate healing and to avoid surgical regression.
4. Your maintenance during healing has to be completed carefully. It is imperative that you use NOTHING ASTRINGENT such as mouth wash or antiseptic solutions during the healing period of your bone graft. Listerine, Viadent, and any other potentially caustic agent can RUIN your bone grafting procedure, if contaminated, and require a replacement bone graft.
5. Since bone grows and heals slowly, and requires conditions conducive to a proper environment and blood supply, it is imperative that immediately after your bone graft that you alter your diet, as you would for an Oral Surgical Procedure. This means that you should not eat anything that is too large, too hot, or too sticky. Your food should be tepid or on the cool side. Common sense must be used in determining what should be done or not done. If for some reason you have a question about anything post surgically, please call the office (231)347-8899 and we will inform you of the proper action to take.
6. Smoking after any Oral Surgical Procedure will ALWAYS delay or badly disrupt normal healing due to a decrease in oxygenation of the tissue that is healing. Smoking should therefore be stopped for the first 7 to 10 days to allow for adequate initial tissue closure. Complete epithelialization (closure) and wound healing normally takes a minimal of 21 days from the day the surgery was completed under ideal healing conditions and no other underlying systemic causes such as Diabetes Mellitus, etc.
7. Bone Grafting is a very predictable surgical procedure when done correctly and when patient's cooperation is adhered to. Please try to be reasonable in understanding that this procedure has inherent risks associated with it as stated in your informed consents.

8. We want nothing more than a perfect outcome with the surgical procedures that you are having done to rehabilitate your bone. This can only be attainable with proper cooperation from you. Please always feel free to communicate with us, at anytime, to make sure that the procedure that you are having completed is properly maintained. No question is ever perceived by our office as being sill or unreasonable. We would rather have questions answered immediately than to have a chance that the procedure will not go as planned.
  
9. Please also remember, as stated above, and as outlined on your informed consents, that there are some occasions that no matter what is done that the outcome is not perfect. There are even infrequent instances when a surgery may have to be redone that are neither the doctors nor the patients fault.