

Re: Implant / Sinus lift question

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On 24 May 2006 23:37:40 -0700, "Alexander Vasserman DDS"
<purple543210@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:

1) you should make sure the surgeon knows you have a history of sinusitis as this can be a negative factor towards implant success in the long run. I does not mean you should not do the procedure, just be prepared for possible (no one knows for sure) undesired outcomes of the proposed treatment.

Sinuses are large spaces inside the bones of your face which are responsible for equalizing atmospheric pressure around you. These chambers are lined with a membrane. When you get a cold/flu these chambers fill with fluid from your nose and give you that stuffy congested feeling.

People that have allergies, sinusitis, frequent colds, deviated nasal septom and have constricted nasal openings have very large sinus spaces. The reason is that over time the bone shrinks in the upper jaw to allow more room for larger sinus space. When doing implants this presents a problem in that implants need to be screwed into bone through the length of the implant to prevent it from spinning. The more bone you have around the implant the better the success of osseointegration(bone attaching to the implant and making it anchor solid). If you do not have enough bone height for the size of the implant than (thank goodness for modern dentistry we can place more bone from a jar(--either your own bone, from another dead person, or from a cow--) there by making the sinus chamber smaller.) you need a procedure called a sinus lift.

A sinus lift involves lifting the membrane carefully without tearing (it as a tear is difficult to heal and when you get a cold stuff will be draining into your mouth or when you drink liquids will flow out of your nose) and placing more ground up bone chips under the membrane thus increasing the overall height of the bone so that an implant can be placed there and everything grows together solid. There are 2 ways of doing a sinus lift one involves a lot of tapping and is probably the easiest to do and the other involves making a window into the chamber without tearing the membrane gently lifting it and packing lots of bone.

If you're young it is nice to have implants vs denture especially when

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we have modern dentistry giving us the ability to do this predictably. I've done the first type of sinus lift and I can say that patients do not feel any pain. There is usually a little swelling 48 hours post up but then this goes down and everything is well.

Whether you get 1st or second type of sinus lift depends on you having enough bone for the procedure in question. For the first type of procedure you need at least 5mm of bone height on the x-ray.
good luck

Thanks a lot.

I am very concerned about screwing around with my sinuses, and will be making this very clear to the oral surgeon.

I read there is a type of implant specifically designed for people that need sinus lifts, which , according to the article I read,

"...can be placed in as little as 5.0mm of bone. They are called Endopore and Innova Corporation fabricates them. Their surface is composed of thousands of tiny titanium spheres. This is the same technology used by many orthopedic surgeons for hip replacement. These tiny spheres tremendously increase the surface area, they also allow the bone to function under tension.

In 2.0–3.0mm of bone a properly trained skilled surgeon can create the opening for the implant push the floor of the sinus up through this opening, place the bone graft and then the implant. This procedure is referred to as a sinus lift through crestal approach. It is much more conservative than the sinus lift procedure you referred to."

Then the article goes on to say:

"Finally, a spark erosion precision partial denture is another option. There is nothing on the roof of your mouth. It is virtually undetectable. After you place it in your mouth a "jewelry like" clasp is closed and it is extremely rigid."

Do you know about these alternatives?

By the way, I paid \$440 for a CT scan and \$over \$250 for a stent to wear during the scan, just to make sure my bones can accept the implants. After looking at this my surgeon informed me that I would probably need a bone graft and sinus lift on the right upper side. He said he would be discussing this with colleagues to make sure and I will discuss the findings with him tomorrow.

But I am leaning towards going with one of these alternatives instead of getting a bone graft and sinus lift; it just seems to invasive.