

Ridge Preservation Grafting



Chronic periodontal (gum) disease around teeth, failing root canals or root fractures result in loss of the supporting bone around the tooth.



After extraction, the bone loss results in a defect in the contour of the dental ridge in the area. It is unusual for this defect to fill in with bone, resulting in a contour of the dental ridge that is not acceptable for implant placement.



Either artificial bone or bone taken from a human bone bank can be used to fill in the socket and defect to promote healing of the area with good bone.



A specialized membrane is sometimes used over the socket to protect the grafted material and hold it in place.



The gum is sutured over the area and the region is allowed to heal for three to six months before implants are placed. This technique is also sometimes used to preserve the contour of the ridge even when implants are not planned in the area.