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Block grafting: A novel approach for implant site development

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A major contraindication to the placement of dental implants is inadequate volume and integrity of bone at the chosen site. Patients with inadequate bone height and width or poor quality of bone in the mandible or maxilla require augmentative bone grafts prior to placement of dental implants. These secondary procedures often involve the use of alloplastic bone substitutes or the harvesting of autogenous bone from a secondary site within the oral cavity. The main criteria to consider when choosing the procedure are the residual bone volume needed to allow correct implant positioning, the bone density needed to achieve primary implant stability, and the morphology of the peri-implant bone defect. In the esthetic zone, additional factors must be taken into account, such as the gingival biotype and the level of the lip line. A variety of surgical techniques have been described to enhance the bone volume of deficient implant-recipient sites, such as the use of onlay or veneer grafts, ridge splitting, or bone condensation. This poster presents a series of four cases where different augmentative procedures and techniques have been used in the maxilla or mandible for increasing the width of bone followed by implant placement.

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