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Implant dentistry: The way to prevent bone loss

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Bone loss is a consequence of loss of teeth and chronic periodontitis. Causes of bone loss include extension of inflammation, trauma from occlusion, and other systemic diseases. Furthermore, dentures can accelerate bone loss by wearing away at the ridges of bone they are placed on. Primary aim of dental implant therapy is the preservation and prevention of alveolar bone atrophy. Over the last 2 decades, several clinical studies have shown that alveolar bone resorption is permanently prevented if dental implants are placed immediately or soon after tooth loss. Extraction of teeth always leads towards the shrinkage of jawbone at the extraction site with a 40-60% bone loss in height and width over a period of 2-4 years and this phenomenon continues throughout life at a rate of 0.5-1% annually. Unaesthetic facial lines, increase in size of the maxillary sinus, poor retention of dentures, over closure, shifting of remaining teeth and general discomfort are among the problems that are generated by loss of bone causing functional, anatomical and cosmetic problems. Implant therapy not only provides possibility of the reconstruction of lost dental tissues but most significantly also enables the preservation of alveolar bone.

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