

Patient Fact Sheet on Bone Grafting Material  
Bio-Oss®: The Bone Grafting Material of Choice

The following are commonly asked questions about the bone grafting material we use to fortify and reconstruct areas in your jaws that need additional bone.

• **Why do I need bone grafting?**

The jawbone that supports the teeth is called “alveolar bone.” It is generally soft and vascular, unlike bones in some other parts of your body. This bone begins to melt away or “resorb” immediately following tooth extraction and can cause significant cosmetic and functional defects, including loss of surrounding gum tissue and the shifting of teeth. As a result of bone loss, many people face the problem of not having enough bone to have dental implant treatment. This is because dental implants need to be placed in sufficient quantity and quality of bone, like plants need the right kind of soil to grow tall, strong and healthy. The good news is that we can literally grow your bone back, and that some of the procedures are fairly simple. Advances in surgery and dentistry have allowed us to stop the bone resorption process in its tracks and even correct damage that has already been done.

• **How do you grow bone?**

Bone is grown by using your own bone from an appropriate donor site, adding grafting material, or using both your own bone and grafting material in the site in need. We use a specially engineered graft material called Bio-Oss® that helps your bone grow faster, stronger and denser. It has a structure similar to human bone and facilitates the bone growth process effectively.

• **What is Bio-Oss®?**

Bio-Oss® is a natural bone substitute that advances bone growth in areas where additional bone is needed. It offers predictable results and has years of research and clinical experience published in scientific literature to support it. Bio-Oss® is made of the mineral portion of bovine (cow) bone and provides your body with a structure upon which new bone cells attach and grow.

Wait, did we say, “cow bone”? Yes, Bio-Oss® is made of demineralized bone harvested from an animal source. Because the original source of the bone is cow, you might be concerned about bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or “mad cow disease.” Extensive research has been done to test whether this material poses risk to people and it has proven repeatedly and conclusively that it does not pose such risks<sup>1</sup>. Only veterinarian inspected animals are chosen as donors and Bio-Oss® undergoes extensive high-temperature purification process followed by additional thorough cleansing in alkaline solution. We have researched Bio-Oss® extensively and have found that the highest standards are used in the production of this product.

• **Summary:** Bio-Oss® is a reliable and safe material we use to aid in growing bone in your jaws. It has been thoroughly researched and tested and is FDA approved for safety and effectiveness.

Many of us here at Northwest Center for Oral, Maxillofacial and Implant Surgery have had Bio-Oss® grafts and are very pleased with the results. Feel free to ask us additional questions about bone grafting and Bio-Oss® grafting material.

*1: Protein-chemical analysis of Bio-Oss® bone substitute and evidence on its carbonate content by D. Benke, A. Olah, H. Mobler, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Switzerland*

