

## Commonly Asked Questions:

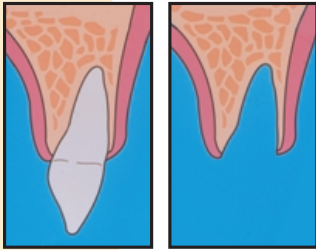
- Q:** How long does a ridge preservation procedure take?
- A:** The extraction of the tooth and the placement of the regenerative materials takes approximately 60 minutes. Naturally, the exact length of time will vary from case to case. The stitches are removed 7-10 days later in a 10 minute visit. One or two ten minute check-up visits may be scheduled to ensure the area has healed correctly, and an x-ray will be taken a few months later to evaluate the amount of new bone growth.
- Q:** Will the ridge preservation procedure hurt?
- A:** Only “novocaine” is necessary to perform an extraction and ridge preservation procedure. During the visit you feel nothing since the area is numb. When the “novocaine” wears off, there will be some mild discomfort. Medication will be prescribed to control any discomfort you might experience. This procedure will not cause you to miss work, etc.
- Q:** Does the barrier which has been placed to accomplish the ridge preservation remain in my mouth?
- A:** If a dissolving type of membrane is utilized, it will be gone a few weeks after the procedure. If a non-dissolving barrier is used, it will be removed in a minor procedure which takes 15 minutes.
- Q:** What is the cost of the procedure?
- A:** The cost of the ridge preservation procedure will vary with the situation. However, your doctor will ensure that this matter is discussed with you thoroughly before proceeding with any treatment.
- Q:** How well does a ridge preservation procedure work?
- A:** The ridge preservation procedure is very predictable. The procedure rebuilds damaged bone, resulting in improved esthetics, continued health of the adjacent teeth, and the establishment of adequate bone for implant placement, if necessary.

**Remember, if you have any questions  
ask your periodontist.**

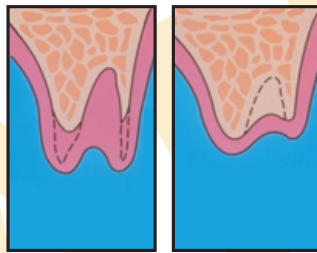
# Ridge Preservation Procedure

Advanced periodontal disease, tooth fracture, or other types of abscesses may cause severe bone loss around a tooth, requiring that the tooth be extracted.

When a tooth is extracted, healing occurs by a combination of “shrinkage” of the remaining extraction socket bone, and some bone growth from the base of the extraction site. The result is often loss of bone where the tooth used to be, and a depression in the remaining ridge of bone.



The bone socket following tooth removal.



The bone shrinks during healing

This problem can now be avoided. At the time the tooth is extracted, the area is filled with one of a number of resorbable “calcium materials”, and the area is covered with a membrane barrier.

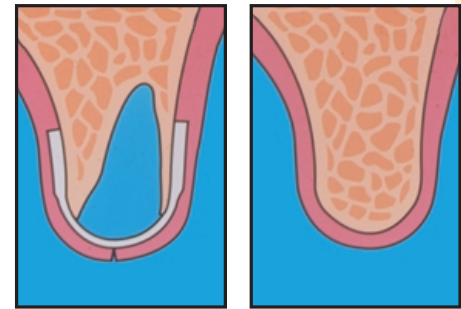
The barrier prevents the gum tissue from growing into the extraction area, and protects the underlying calcium materials and the forming bone.

The calcium materials encourage your own bone to grow into the area, and these materials are totally resorbed and eliminated by the body.

This treatment will often result in the complete regeneration of the lost bone in the area of the tooth extraction.

Regenerating damaged and lost bone at the time of extraction of the tooth provides the following advantages:

- The bone between the extracted tooth and the adjacent tooth is preserved or regenerated. The health of the adjacent tooth is thus improved.
- A ridge deformity does not develop, and the appearance of the ridge is more natural. The esthetics of the area is preserved or improved.
- The regenerated bone allows placement of an implant to replace the missing tooth.



The bone is regenerating following tooth removal.

If a ridge deformity exists because this procedure was not performed at the time the tooth was extracted, this procedure can be performed at a later date with beneficial results.