## Commonly Asked Questions:

**Q: Will the ridge preservation procedure hurt?**

A: Only “novocaine“ is necessary to perform a tooth removal and ridge preservation procedure. You feel nothing once the area has been numbed. When the “novocaine“ wears off, there may be mild discomfort. Medication will be prescribed to control any discomfort you might experience. This procedure will not cause you to miss work.

**Q: How long does a ridge preservation procedure take?**

A: The removal of a tooth and placement of the regenerative materials is about 60 minutes. Dissolving stitches are usually used. One or two ten minute check-up visits may be scheduled to ensure the area has healed correctly. An x-ray will be taken a few months later to evaluate your new bone growth.

**Q: Does the membrane barrier remain in my mouth?**

A: If a dissolving membrane is utilized, it will be gone a few weeks after the procedure. If a non-dissolving membrane is used, it will be removed in a minor procedure which takes 10 minutes.

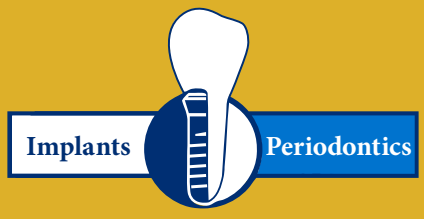
**Q: What is the cost of the procedure?**

A: The cost of the bone rebuilding procedure will vary with the situation. Your doctor will discuss this with you before proceeding with any treatment.

**Q: How well does ridge preservation work?**

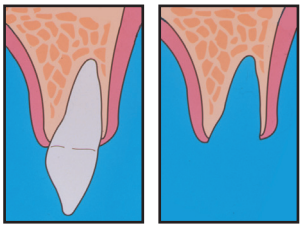
A: Bone rebuilding is very predictable. The procedure results in continued health of the adjacent teeth, improved esthetics and adequate bone for implant placement, if necessary.

# Rebuilding Bone When Your Teeth Are Removed

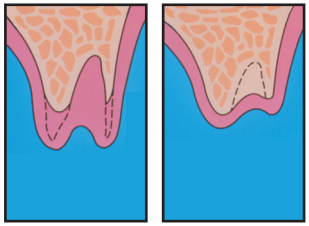


**Advanced periodontal disease, tooth fracture, or other types of abscesses lead to severe bone loss around a tooth, causing tooth loss.**

When a tooth is extracted, healing is a combination of "shrinkage" of the remaining extraction socket bone, and bone growth from the base of the extraction site. The result is loss of bone where the tooth used to be, which weakens the adjacent teeth and leads to a depression in the remaining bone. Very often, there is not enough bone for placement of an implant.



*The bone socket following tooth removal.*



*The bone shrinks during healing.*

These problems can be avoided. At the time the tooth is extracted, the area is filled with "calcium material," and is covered with a membrane barrier.

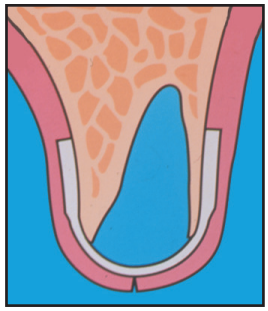
The calcium material encourages your own bone to grow into the area. This material is then eliminated by your body.

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

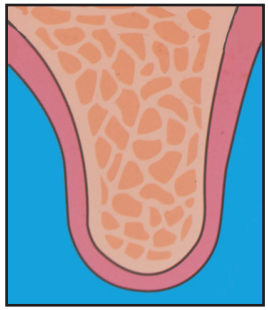
**This treatment results in the complete regeneration of the lost bone in the area of the tooth extraction.**

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

- The health of the adjacent teeth is improved.
- The esthetics of the area is improved because a bone defect does not develop.
- The regenerated bone allows placement of an implant to replace your missing tooth.



*The area is covered with a barrier membrane.*



*The bone has regenerated.*

**If a ridge deformity is already present because a bone regeneration procedure was not performed when your tooth was extracted, bone regeneration can still be performed.**