Using Foundation bone augmentation material

By Jeffrey L. Turchi, DDS

Placing some type of bone graft or augmentation material into extraction sockets is rapidly approaching “standard of care” status according to Dr. Jon Suzuki, director of the graduate periodontics program at Temple University School of Dentistry.

The emergence of implant dentistry as treatment of choice is undeniable and along with this movement the preservation and augmentation of the alveolar ridge by bone grafting or other methods will be critical for success.

Bone grafting has a long history. The first known attempt was performed by a Dutch surgeon in 1688. Bone grafting has gained much momentum along the way, being surpassed only by blood transfusions as the most transplanted human tissue. I will attempt to give an overview of the current state of bone grafting or bone augmentation.

There are several different bone graft procedures available today. The “autogenous” graft is considered the gold standard of grafts because it utilizes the patient’s own bone. Bone is typically harvested from the patient’s hip or palate. Despite the predictability of using one’s own bone, the need for a second surgical site is a disadvantage.

The “allograft” also utilizes human bone but in this case the bone is collected from a person other than the patient, usually a cadaver. Although it is uncommon, there is a small risk of disease transmission especially if the source of the allograft is not well monitored.

There are some other, less popular graft materials on the market also. These are typically synthetic materials that either act as artificial bone or act as a framework for bone to grow into at its normal rate. Products that behave like this are considered to be

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OSAP plans infection symposium in N.C.

The Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures’s 2007 infection-prevention symposium, “Racing Toward a Safer Future,” will take place May 5-6 at the Charlotte Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C.

The leading experts on infection control and occupational health and safety will share information of critical concern to dental professionals and others involved in dentistry. The agenda includes networking time and social events, such as the “Surprising Fun Charity Auction, which will feature an astonishing array of vacation packages, gourmet baskets, artwork, apparel, jewelry, literary and sporting goods, and much more. Twenty-two hours of CE credit are available.

The 2007 OSAP Symposium will give attendees the opportunity to learn about dental and infection control trends, find out how to set up infection control programs at their own facilities, and understand how to increase compliance. Internationally-known experts will discuss the latest developments regarding key dental infection prevention and safety issues worldwide, infectious diseases and their impact on systemic health, training tools and techniques, and current developments such as salivary diagnostics.

The OSAP Symposium is designed for infection control and safety instructors, lecturers, authors, and consultants; researchers; dentists; hygienists; assistants; lab technicians; nurses in dental clinics; and dental sales and marketing personnel. A brochure is now available that contains details on the Symposium as well as a reservation form. It is available online at www.OSAP.org or can be requested by calling 800.298.OSAP (6727).

OSAP is the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures. Founded in 1984, the non-profit association is dentistry’s premier resource for infection control and safety information. Through its publications, courses, Web site, and worldwide collaborations, OSAP and the tax-exempt OSAP Foundation support education, research, service, and policy development to promote safety and the control of infectious diseases in dental healthcare settings worldwide.

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