## OSTEOTOME SINUS FLOOR ELEVATION WITHOUT GRAFTING MATERIAL: A 3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

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**OBJECTIVES:** In a previous study (Nedir et al. 2006), the predictability of an osteotome sinus floor elevation procedure with ITI-SLA implants without grafting material was evaluated in maxilla with limited residual bone height (RBH). Implants have now been inserted for at least 3 years. The endo-sinus and crestal bone levels (CBL) are reported herein for the same patient group.

**MATERIAL & METHODS:** 25 ITI-SLA implants were placed in 17 patients to rehabilitate 16 molar and 9 premolar sites with 4 single crowns and 13 fixed partial dentures. Most implants (21/25) were 10mm long. The mean RBH was $5.4\pm2.3$mm. At the 1-year control, all implants were clinically stable and showed a mean endo-sinus bone gain of $2.5\pm1.2$mm and CBL of $1.2\pm0.7$mm. At the 3-year control, endo-sinus bone gain and CBL were measured on apical radiographs.

**RESULTS:** Three years after placement, all implants fulfilled success criteria. The mean endo-sinus bone gain was $3.1\pm1.0$mm and the mean CBL was $0.9\pm0.7$mm. During the last two years, 21 sites have kept on slightly gaining bone under the sinus and CBL has not increased except for three implants (+ 0.3mm).

**CONCLUSION:** All implants gained endo-sinus bone during the first year and this gain has slightly increased for most of them over the two following years. The CBL, limited after one year, has stabilized over the two following years of survey. Despite a limited RBH at implant placement, the endo-sinus bone gained during the first year lead to a predictable long-term implant function.