

# Clinical application of auto-tooth bone graft material

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**Abstract** (J Korean Assoc Oral Maxillofac Surg 2012;38:2-8)

**Introduction:** Auto-tooth bone graft material consists of 55% inorganic hydroxyapatite (HA) and 45% organic substances. Inorganic HA possesses properties of bone in terms of the combining and dissociating of calcium and phosphate. The organic substances include bone morphogenetic protein and proteins which have osteoinduction capacity, as well as the type I collagen identical to that found in alveolar bone. Auto-tooth bone graft material is useful as it supports excellent bone regeneration capacity and minimizes the possibility of foreign body reaction, genetic diseases and disease transmission.

**Materials and Methods:** Implant placement combined with osteoinductive regeneration, preservation of extraction socket, maxillary sinus augmentation, and ridge augmentation using block type, powder type, and block+powder type autobone graft material were performed for 250 patients with alveolar bone defect and who visited the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, Dankook University from September 2009 to August 2011.

**Results:** Clinical assessment: Among the 250 patients of auto-tooth bone graft, clinical assessment was performed for 133 cases of implant placement. The average initial stabilization of placed implants was 74 implant stability quotient (ISQ). Radiological assessment: The average loss of crestal bone in the mandible as measured 6 months on the average after the application of prosthesis load was 0.29 mm, ranging from 0 mm to 3.0 mm. Histological assessment: In the histological assessment, formation of new bone, densified lamellated bone, trabecular bones, osteoblast, and planting fixtures were investigated.

**Conclusion:** Based on these results, we concluded that auto-tooth bone graft material should be researched further as a good bone graft material with osteoconduction and osteoinduction capacities to replace autogenous bone, which has many limitations.

**Key words:** Auto-tooth bone, Osteoconduction, Osteoinduction

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## I. Introduction

Nowadays, various bone graft materials are developed due to advanced bio-graft material development technologies; as a result, dento alveolar surgery can handle difficult osseous defects with various methods in the placement of implant, periodontal surgery, and maxillofacial surgery. The auto-tooth bone graft material is a system that treats patients by manufacturing bone graft material from their own extracted teeth. It has first been introduced by the Korea Tooth Bank

R&D Center, and has satisfied many clinicians and patients for its osteoconduction as well as osteoinduction capacity.

Auto-tooth bone graft material consists of 55% inorganic and 45% organic substances. Among the inorganic substances, hydroxyapatite (HA) has the characteristics of combining and dissociating calcium and phosphate as those of bone. Organic substances include the bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) and proteins with osteoinduction capacity as well as type I collagen, which is the same as alveolar bone itself. Therefore, they have the same bone remodeling capacity with autogenous bone<sup>1</sup>.

Auto-tooth bone graft materials are divided into block and powder types. The block type has osteoinduction, capacity via blood wettability and has osteoconduction capacity via space maintaining and creeping substitution and space maintaining abilities; it is remodeled by maintaining space during a specific period. The powder type is supplied based

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on various sizes of particles, porosity between powders, and blood wettability, osteoconduction, osteoinduction, and creeping substitution abilities.

With above data, auto-tooth bone graft material is very useful in clinical situations because it supports excellent bone regeneration through osteoinduction and osteoconduction capacity and minimizes foreign body reaction due to genetic homogeneity.

This study is aimed to introduce the bone healing capacity of auto-tooth bone graft material based on the radiological, histological, and clinical results of implant placement, preservation of extraction socket, maxillary sinus augmentation, and ridge augmentation combined with guided bone regeneration using powder and block type performed at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, Dankook University.

## II. Materials and Methods

### 1. Characteristics of auto-tooth graft material

Auto-tooth graft materials are divided into the block type



**Fig. 1.** Block type.

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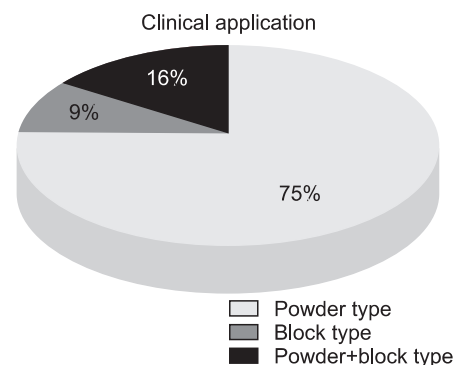
**Fig. 2.** Powder type.

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and powder type. Block bone graft materials are divided into root-form and root-on types. The root form is suitable for the preservation and reconstruction of extraction socket because it resembles a dental root. The root-on type is suitable for horizontal or vertical ridge augmentation because it resembles a general block bone. In addition, both types can be used for the preservation of the extraction socket, aesthetic restoration of the alveolar bone, restoration of perforated sinus membrane, and enhancement of initial stabilization of implant. Block-type bone graft material should be hydrated with physiological saline for 15-30 minutes before use because it is supplied after being demineralized and dried. Properly hydrated block can be controlled by operators with surgical knife or scissors and attached and fixed firmly without any additional instrument due to its excellent elasticity and flexibility. (Fig. 1) Powder-type bone graft materials are divided into crown type (Auto BT-Enamel) and root type (Auto BT-Dentin). Auto BT enamel is suitable for maintaining volume due to bone healing capacity derived from osteoconduction and late resorption because most of it consists of inorganic enamel. In contrast, Auto BT dentin is suitable for osteoinduction regeneration, ridge augmentation, and maxillary bone graft derived from osteoinduction and osteoconduction because it consists of dentin and cement containing many organic substances (type I collagen). (Fig. 2)

### 2. Clinical application of auto-tooth bone

Implant placement combined with osteoinductive regeneration, preservation of extraction socket, maxillary sinus augmentation, and ridge augmentation using block type, powder type, and block+powder type auto-bone graft material were performed for 250 patients with alveolar bone defect



**Fig. 3.** Clinical application of auto-tooth bone (total: 250 cases).

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and who visited the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, Dankook University from September 2009 to August 2011. (Fig. 3) Surgeries were performed by professors and residents of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, Dankook University.

Among the 190 patients, powder type was used for 25 patients in osteoinduction regeneration, 95 patients in implant placement combined with osteoinduction regeneration, 16 patients in the preservation of extraction socket, and 15 patients in maxillary sinus augmentation. The block+powder type was used for 13 patients in osteoinduction regeneration, 38 patients in implant placement combined with osteoinduction regeneration, and 5 patients in ridge augmentation. The block type was used for 17 patients in the preservation of extraction socket. Afterward, the success of the surgery was assessed via clinical, radiological, and histological tests. (Fig. 4)

There were more male patients than female patients, and patients were mostly in their 40s and 50s. With respect to maxillary and mandibular cases, mandibular cases numbered 142, and maxillary cases, 108. Most recipient sites were extraction socket caused by periodontal disease.

#### 1) Type of surgery

##### (1) Guided bony regeneration (GBR)

Osteoinduction regeneration and implant placement combined with osteoinduction regeneration (GBR).

Auto-tooth bone graft material was placed with an implant in case of osseous defect larger than 2 mm vertically or horizontally around the placed implant. Membrane use was determined by the operator. If the amount of graft material was insufficient, it was mixed with other bone graft material.

##### (2) Maxillary sinus bone graft

Auto-tooth graft material was used for patients whose

edentulous bone was less than 10 mm high from the sinus floor via lateral or crestal approach. Only maxillary bone graft was performed, and implant was placed after 4-6 months in cases securing the initial stabilization of the implant was difficult due to the height of the edentulous bone.

#### (3) Socket preservation

Auto-tooth bone graft material was placed after 1-2 weeks in the extraction socket to secure enough edentulous bone to reserve alveolar bone and place implant if necessary since tooth extraction was performed due to periodontal defect, injury, root fracture, or root rest.

#### (4) Ridge augmentation

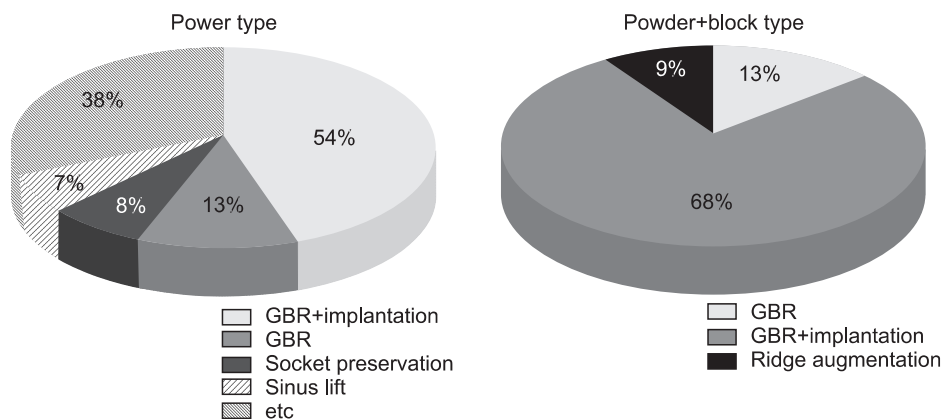
If the vertical and horizontal diameters of alveolar bone were shorter than 3 mm, block-type auto-tooth graft material was placed to increase bone mass.

#### 2) Clinical assessment

The patients' age, gender, location of placement, initial and secondary stabilization of implant, complications during and after surgery, mobility of implant at the final diagnosis, presence of exudate, edema, and bleeding after probing were investigated. Initial and secondary stabilization of implant was measured by Osstell Mentor (Integration Diagnostics Ltd., Goteborg, Sweden).

#### 3) Radiological assessment

For the radiological assessment, bone height was measured right after placement and at the final diagnosis. The distance between the top of the placed implant and the top of bone in contact with the placed implant was measured as the mesial and distal surface by magnifying panoramic photos and computed tomography scan images 10 times with Marosis (Marotech, Seoul, Korea), a digital radioautograph viewer.



**Fig. 4.** Types of auto-tooth bone material and surgery. (GBR: guided bony regeneration)  
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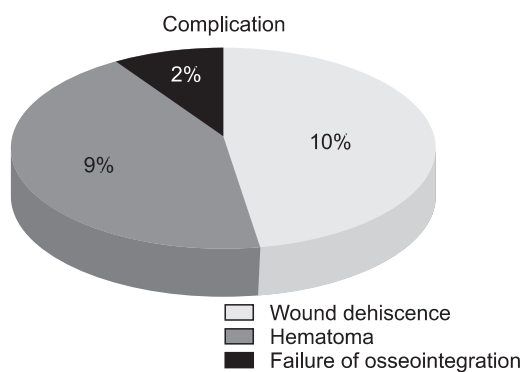
#### 4) Histological assessment

This assessment was conducted for 6 patients who read the purpose of the histological test and signed the consent form for biopsy. Five mm bone sample was collected from the crestal bone of 6 patients after 3.5 months on the average with 2 mm trephine bur. The samples were fixed with 10% formalin solution immediately and demineralized for 1 week with Formic Acid-Sodium Citrate. They were then washed, embedded in paraffin, cut in 4-5  $\mu$ m, subjected to H&E staining, and examined by optical and polarizing microscope.

### III. Results

#### 1. Clinical assessment

Among the 250 patients of auto-tooth bone graft, clinical assessment was performed for 133 cases of implant placement. Average age was 50.8, ranging from 17 to 71 years. Male patients numbered 154, and female patients, 96. A total of 93 implants were placed in the maxillary and mandibular posterior, and 40 implants, in the maxillary and mandibular anterior. Block+powder-type auto-tooth bone graft material was used for 38 patients, and powder type, for other patients. The average initial stabilization of placed implants was 74 implant stability quotient (ISQ), and average secondary stabilization was 83 ISQ. For post-surgery complications, wound dehiscence developed in 10 cases. Among them, 7 cases had no loss of crestal bone with good secondary treatment, and 3 cases had average crestal bone loss of 2 mm. In 9 cases, hematoma developed after the surgery but was treated without any serious problem. In 2 cases, osseointegration failed; the implants were removed, and new ones were placed again immediately.(Fig. 5) The average



**Fig. 5.** Type of complication.

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period of examination upon completion of denture was 9 months, ranging from 4 to 12 months. All cases maintained normal functions.

#### 2. Radiological assessment

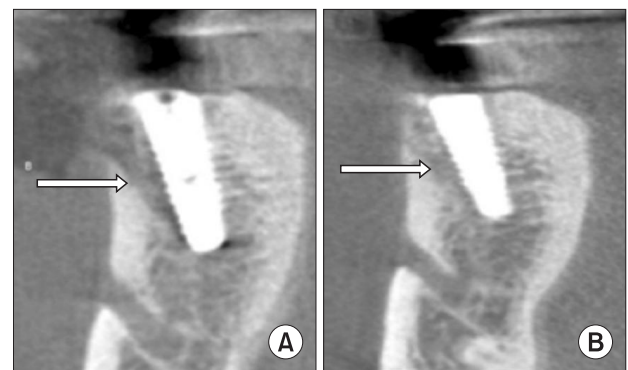
The average loss of crestal bone in the mandible as measured 6 months on the average after the application of prosthesis load was 0.29 mm, ranging from 0 mm to 3.0 mm. In the case of the maxilla, average loss of crestal bone after 6 months on the average was only 0.1 mm.(Fig. 6)

#### 3. Histological assessment

In the histological assessment, formation of new bone, densified lamellated bone, trabecular bones, osteoblast, and planting fixtures were investigated. Among the planting fixtures, enamel tended to be resorbed by the surrounding new bone or existed alone, whereas dentin tended to form new bones in a specific direction.(Fig. 7)

### IV. Discussion

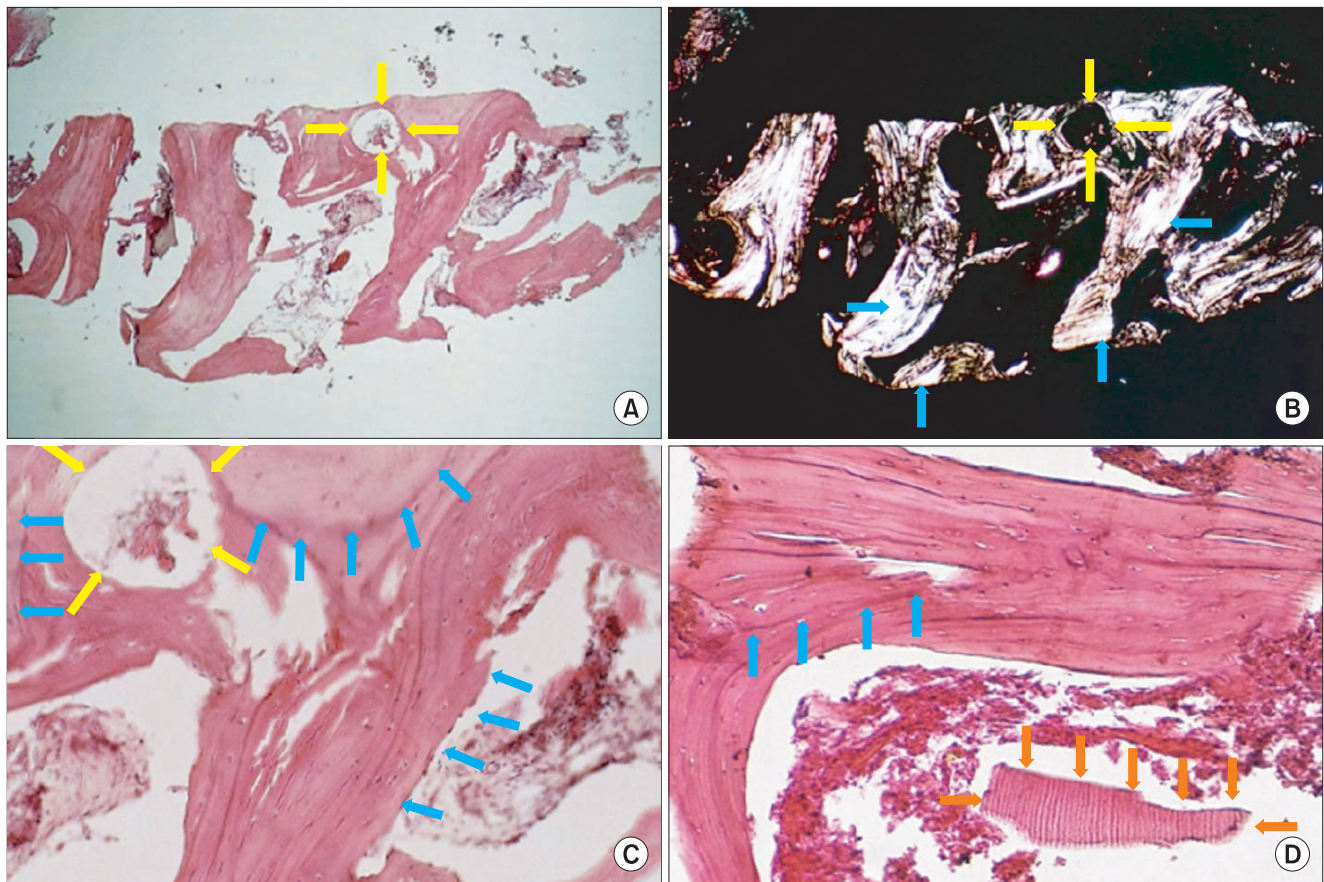
Since the first result wherein teeth generated bones<sup>2</sup> as proven by the study of Urist<sup>2</sup> wherein he examined the generation of bone after applying demineralized tooth in parts other than bone, the capacity of tooth to generate bones has not been investigated. Note, however, that recent research such as the study of Kim et al.<sup>1</sup> which proved the successful use of artificially processed tooth as graft material, and the report of Murata et al.<sup>3</sup> in Japan wherein bone was generated



**Fig. 6.** After 6 months, computed tomography (CT) scan around buccal wall defect (arrow) showed more radio-opacity than the initial implantation with auto-tooth bone grafting. A. Initial CT view. B. CT view after 6 months.

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**Fig. 7.** Resorbing enamel (yellow arrows) and dentin (blue arrows) were noted. Some enamel stayed independent (orange arrows) without surrounding bone in subject group patient I. A. Optical microscopic view (H&E staining,  $\times 40$ ). B. Polarizing microscopic view (H&E staining,  $\times 40$ ). C, D. Optical microscopic view (H&E staining,  $\times 100$ ).

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from demineralized tooth are based on prior research as well as the idea that the components of tooth are similar to those of bone.

No doubt, autogenous bone graft is ideal for the reconstruction of hard tissue defects. It has bone formation, osteoconduction, osteoinduction, and osseointegration capacities, and it does not trigger foreign body reaction; it also ensures fast healing. Note, however, that it is difficult to obtain a sufficient amount, and secondary defect develops in the donor site<sup>4</sup>. In the case of allograft, there is some doubt as to the amount of bone formation proteins necessary for proper osteoinduction, and contagion may develop<sup>5,6</sup>. On the other hand, xenograft is not popular among operators because of immune rejection response by heterologous proteins, possibility of contagion, and high cost<sup>7</sup>. As a result, there have been many research studies on the development, application, and effect of allograft, xenograft, and synthetic graft. The bone graft material to replace autogenous bone has been highly anticipated.

Recently, synthetic graft materials manufactured with HA, etc., have been developed and used. HA is easily combined with osseous tissues since its chemical structure is similar to that of tooth and osseous tissues, but it has only osteoconduction ability by acting as scaffold in the bone remodeling process without osteoinduction capacity<sup>8</sup>.

Autogenous bone is known to have both osteoconduction and osteoinduction capacities due to sufficient bone formation proteins in cortical bone, and it can provide bone regeneration capacity via stem cells if marrow cavity is included in the graft.

Although many research studies and application methods of graft material have been introduced, it is still difficult to obtain bone graft material that has the advantages of autogenous bone sans the disadvantages. In fact, many research studies to develop bone graft material to replace autogenous bone have been conducted. In particular, Kim et al.<sup>1</sup> introduced a bone graft material using extracted auto-tooth as new bone graft material to overcome the

disadvantages of allograft, xenograft, and synthetic graft.

Auto-tooth bone graft material is an innovative bone graft material with all the advantages of autogenous bone owing to its very similar components to bone and is very useful in clinical situations. It also addresses patients' repulsion to allograft and xenograft by providing excellent biocompatibility without causing immune response, foreign material reaction, or contagion. In addition, it has osteoinduction, osteoconduction, and creeping substitution capacities<sup>9-11</sup>, and it can be manufactured in various sizes and shapes.

Tooth extracted from a person is classified as environmental waste and should be disposed of by an extracted material processor. Note, however, that the use of auto-tooth is not illegal if the patient agrees to process and use his/her own teeth. Unless contaminated by an infectious lesion, a tooth does not cause problems even when the root rest is in the alveolar bone. There are also surgeries wherein the root rest is left intentionally to preserve the alveolar bone<sup>12,13</sup>. In addition, Kim et al.<sup>14</sup> reported that 90% of the tooth's organic components are type I collagen, which is very important in the calcification of bone. Ike and Urist<sup>15</sup> proved that BMP-2 included in enamel has capacity for osteoinduction, which is important in bone formation<sup>16</sup>. Gao et al.<sup>17</sup> reported that enamel has growth factors such as insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-II, BMP-2, and transforming growth factor (TGF)-beta like bone. According to Saygin et al.<sup>18</sup> cement and its mother cell have TGF-beta, IGF-I, and platelet-derived growth factor. In other words, the enamel and cement of tooth have many growth factors that help bone formation.

Based on these, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, Dankook University performed radiological and histological assessments of auto-tooth bone graft material made of extracted tooth- which is currently regarded as waste- by grafting it in human extraction socket. In this research, auto-tooth bone graft material showed fast bone healing capacity without inflammatory reaction in all recipient sites regardless of age and location of surgery and recorded high success rate without serious complications.

## V. Conclusion

Currently, there are various bone graft materials; in particular, auto-tooth bone graft material has been studied aggressively as a material to overcome the disadvantages of allograft, xenograft, and synthetic graft without losing bone regeneration capacity like autogenous bone. The

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dankook University has applied it clinically since October 2008. In clinical applications, auto-tooth bone graft material does not have genetic and infectious risks; it is as strong as other graft materials, providing good bone generation through osteoinduction and osteoconduction as well as excellent initial bone remodeling capacity. Based on these results, we concluded that auto-tooth bone graft material should be researched further as a good bone graft material with osteoconduction and osteoinduction capacities to replace autogenous bone, which has many limitations.

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