# **Retrieval of Dental Implants from Maxillary Sinus- A Systematic Review**

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# Abstract

Introduction: Implant dislocation into the maxillary sinus often results from features specific to the posterior maxillary teeth, together with poor bone quality and inadequate remaining bone. This study reviews implants displaced into the maxillary sinus, the reasons and complications of dislocation, and how to retrieve them, according to when the dislocation occurs.

Materials and methods: The PubMed, Ovid (MEDLINE), and EMBASE databases were searched using the keywords "dislocation," "implant," "maxillary sinus," and "removal/ retrieval" for articles published between January 2000 and July 2013.

Results: 22 journal articles were chosen; these discussed 49 displaced implants. Most of the implants were displaced into the maxillary sinus during implantation, but caused in a low incidence of complications, such as maxillary sinusitis. The displaced implants were retrieved using the Caldwell-Luc approach or a transoral or transnasal endoscopic approach.

Conclusion: Implants displaced into the maxillary sinus have various reasons according to when they are displaced. As displaced implants can cause several complications, transnasal endoscopy is suggested to retrieve them; however, the implants should be examined thoroughly before selecting the removal method.

Keywords: Retrieval, Dental Implants, Maxillary Sinus

### Introduction

Implants are used extensively to restore maxillary posterior teeth, although this is a difficult task due to the poor bone quality of the maxilla, pneumatization of the maxillary sinus, and alveolar bone resorption in the edentulous area.1 Significance is attached to the primary stability of maxillary implants, which can be displaced unintentionally into the maxillary sinus if there is inadequate primary stability during implantation or no osseointegration after implantation. Though some of these displaced implants are asymptomatic, many involve complications, such as migration into the paranasal sinus or causing maxillary sinusitis. Hence, it is desirable to retrieve most.2 This study reviews implants displaced into the maxillary sinus to identify the reasons of dislocation, types of complication, and how to retrieve the implants, according to when they are displaced.

### Materials and methods

The PubMed, Ovid (MEDLINE), and EMBASE databases were searched used the keywords "dislocation," "implant," "maxillary sinus," and "removal" with the following search formula: {Subject 1 AND Subject 2 AND Subject 3 AND Subject 4} Subject 1: dislocation OR migration OR dislocation [Title] AND Subject 2: dental implant [Title] AND Subject 3: maxillary sinus [Title] AND Subject 4: removal OR retrieval [Title] Only articles published between January 2000 and July 2013 that described the number of displaced implants, when they were displaced after implantation, the presence of complications of dislocation and their removal, and how to retrieve the implants were reviewed. Articles were excluded that described teeth or foreign bodies, or implants displaced into the sphenoid sinus, ethmoid sinus, or brain, and not into the maxillary sinus. The selection was done by a single researcher.

#### Results

Twenty-two articles describing 49 displaced implants were found. The number of displaced implants, maxillary sinus floor elevation before implantation, when the implants were displaced into the maxillary sinus, complications of dislocation into the maxillary sinus, removal, and removal method are summarized in **Table 1**.

No significant difference was found in maxillary sinus floor elevation before implantation: 12 were preceded by the procedure; 10 were not; and the procedure was not mentioned for the remaining 27. Of the 34 implants with a description of when they were displaced, 12 were displaced during implantation and most were displaced less than 1 year after implantation. In contrast, Galindo-Moreno et al8 examined dislocation before and after loading and reported that more implants were displaced after loading than before loading (10 vs 5). Most of the implants (34 of 49) had no complication caused by their dislocation. However, 37 implants were retrieved: 29 using the Caldwell-Luc approach, 4 using transnasal endoscopy, and 3 using transoral endoscopy. Twelve implants were not retrieved due to the absence of symptoms, patient refusal, or dislocation into the digestive system.

### Discussion

Implant longer than the remaining bone could be displaced into the maxillary sinus. Since then, implants displaced into the maxillary sinus have been reported regularly, despite the drastic increase in implant research and their successful implantation. The reasons of implant dislocation can be classified according to when the implant is displaced into the maxillary sinus; it is most often displaced during the operation. Varol et al24 and Chappuis et al3 listed some reasons of dislocation during surgery, together with an unskilled surgeon, poor primary implant stability, unsuccessful bone regeneration following previous maxillary sinus floor elevation, and implantation without pneumatized sinus floor elevation or without treatment of perforation caused by implant drilling. In particular, poor primary stability reasons implant micromovement, which prevents clot formation and revascularization and makes new bone formation difficult.

Poor implant fixation can prevent osseointegration, resulting in late implant dislocation.25–27 Most implants are displaced immediately after they are placed, or before or during a second operation. Flanagan4 indicated that within the first 2 weeks after implantation, bone regenerates actively around the implant, resulting in poorer implant fixation than during implantation and displacing the implant into the maxillary sinus. Galindo et al7 described the reasons of implant dislocation within 2 months after implantation and in the late phase: implant dislocation that occurs between 2 weeks and 2 months after placement is caused by incorrect surgical techniques, constant bone destruction due to an existing alveolar bone infection, or osteoporosis or osteopenia.9,28 In the articles reviewed, only 7 of 49 implants were displaced 1 year after they were placed or after they were loaded.

Regev et al29 attributed implant dislocation after loading or in the late phase to changes in intrasinusal or nasal pressure, inflammatory reactions around the implants, and incorrect distribution of the occlusal forces. Many articles reported that changes in intrasinusal or nasal pressure could cause suction forces, which could then displace the implant into the maxillary sinus and that the dislocation was more likely to occur when the maxillary sinus was perforated. The second cause of dislocation, periimplantitis, destroys the bone around the implant and leads to unsuccessful osseointegration.7,28 Incorrect masticatory forces exert destructive forces on the bone around the implant, particularly a prosthesis with an over-sized cantilever, malocclusion caused by poor retention of the prosthesis, and the implant loading less than 3 weeks after placement make displaced into the maxillary sinus more likely.7,29

Although many articles describe an association between inadequate height of the maxillary alveolar bone and implant dislocation,8,14,19 the height of the alveolar bone is a risk factor for implant dislocation, but the risk is not directly proportional based on the abovementioned reasons. Delayed implantation, which requires maxillary sinus floor elevation before implantation, is also likely to cause implant dislocation. Biglioli and Chiapasco2 reported that 33% of 36 implants displaced into the maxillary sinus involved maxillary sinus floor elevation before implantation, whereas Galindo-Moreno et al8 reported this in 53.3% of the displaced implants.

The osteotome approach led to greater dislocation than the lateral approach due to the poor primary fixation caused by the difference in diameter between the final osteotome and placed implant. In the articles reviewed, 9 of 49 implants had maxillary sinusitis, excluding simple

maxillary sinus mucosal swelling. The displaced implants could cause maxillary sinus mucosal swelling, narrow the ostium, or reduce ciliary movements, consequently preventing or interrupting mucociliary clearance.6,30,31 A study of the tissues from the retrieved implant threads observed mucous-serous gland proliferation, pseudocyst formation, and inflammatory cell infiltration, along with degenerative changes in the maxillary sinus mucosa. Another article reported that the displaced implants themselves could cause aspergillosis or cancer.16,32,33

The displaced implants can cause complications affecting the organs neighboring the maxillary sinus. Implants displaced into the maxillary sinus migrated into the ethmoid sinus, orbital floor, sphenoid sinus, or even the cranial fossa.34–36 The maxillary sinus infection can cause orbital cellulitis and damage the optic nerve,37,38 resulting in meningitis or brain abscess in some cases.39,40 In the articles reviewed, most of the displaced implants were retrieved, unless no symptoms of maxillary sinusitis were found, it was difficult to retrieve the implant, the patient refused removal, or there was no need to retrieve it because it had been sucked into the maxillary sinus and migrated into the digestive system.11,20

Although some reported that the displaced implants were asymptomatic for up to 8 years after they were displaced into the maxillary sinus,21 removal is necessary because they can cause late sinusitis due to the foreign body reactions years after they are displaced.16,18 Many articles recommend removing the displaced implants endoscopically because excessive tears of the maxillary sinus mucosa are less likely and it is less invasive than the CaldwellLuc approach, reducing injuries or bleeding in the mucosa, facilitating recovery, and preserving mucociliary function. Implants markedly displaced in the anteromedial direction are retrieved more easily via endoscopy than with an intraoral approach with surgery of the paranasal sinus.22,41,42

It is necessary to retrieve an implant that has caused sinusitis, and the vitality of the sinus is determined by the patency of the maxillary ostium. When there are symptoms and signs related to the sinus, transnasal endoscopy can be used to widen the narrowed or blocked ostium and to retrieve foreign bodies and treat the hyperplastic, hypertrophic, infected mucosa simultaneously through functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS).14,41,42 This method can be performed under local anesthesia. However, when surgical forceps cannot easily approach a displace implant due to its location and angle, transnasal endoscopy is also difficult.43–48

The Caldwell-Luc approach was selected to retrieve the displaced implants in most cases. This approach enables a very wide view and is useful for removing objects that cannot be retrieved endoscopically because of their size or excessive dislocation.22 If implant dislocation has caused an oroantral fistula, an intraoral approach, such as the Caldwell-Luc approach, is essential to close it.49 If there are no symptoms of maxillary infection, maxillary sinus floor elevation and bone grafting can be performed immediately after removing the implant; Ucer18 stitched up the perforated maxillary sinus mucosa and grafted Bio-Oss (Geistlich Pharma, Wolhusen, Switzerland) after removing a displaced implant.

An antrostomy can also be used when there is maxillary sinusitis; it is difficult to achieve mucociliary clearance, and the removal of the implant through the Caldwell-Luc approach alone is rarely considered a good solution.6 Gonzalez-Garcia et al42 noted that the Caldwell-Luc operation and transoral endoscopy could be used when there was no need to treat the ostium and the paranasal sinus was not affected. Cutler et al50 reported that the Caldwell-Luc approach could be used when endoscopy was unsuccessful or when there was refractory chronic sinusitis.

Endoscopy is suggested together with an oral approach if there is an oroantral fistula.

Chiapasco et al49 reported that 5 of 13 patients affected by sinusitis had ostium obstruction and used an oral approach combined with FESS. However, they also noted that an oral approach alone could be useful when there was an oroantral fistula or sinusitis but no effect on the ostium. There were some complications, together with recurrence of maxillary sinusitis, whatever method was used to retrieve the implant. In summary, although transnasal endoscopy is most often suggested when there is ostium obstruction or when the paranasal sinus needs to be treated, the Caldwell-Luc approach can be used alone or in combination with the endoscopy if there is an oroantral fistula. Endoscopy can be used when there is maxillary sinusitis; however, it is necessary to conduct a full preoperative evaluation before selecting a method (Table 2).

# Conclusion

Implant dislocation into the maxillary sinus common and has different reasons, according to when it occurs. The displaced implants may cause complications in the maxillary sinus, paranasal sinus, or neighboring organs. Hence, it is desirable to retrieve them rather than to use conservative treatment, even when there are no symptoms. Endoscopy can be used to retrieve such implants; however, it is necessary to conduct a full preoperative evaluation of their location and size, the osteomeatal complex, and the paranasal sinus before selecting the treatment method.

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Authors	No. of	Previous	Time From	Sinus	Removal	
	Implants	Sinus	Placement to	Complication		Method of
	-	Lift	Dislocation	-		Removal
Chappuis et	1	Yes	Immediately	Swelling	Yes	Transnasal
al <sup>3</sup>						Е
Flanagan <sup>4</sup>	1	?	Immediately	No	Yes	CL
Fusari et al	1	?	Immediately	No	Yes	CL
5						
Raghoebar	1	No	5 mo	No	Yes	CL SL
and						
Vissink <sup>6</sup>						
Galindo et	1	?	4 y	No	No	
al 7						
	1	?	6 mo	No	No	
Galindo-	1	Yes	Before loading	No	Yes	CL
Moreno et						
al <sup>8</sup>						
	1	Yes	Before loading	Swelling	Yes	CL
	4	Yes	Afterloading	No	Yes	CL
	2	Yes	Afterloading	No	No	
	3	No	Beforeloading	Sinusitis	Yes	CL
	3	No	After loading	No	No	
	1	No	After loading	No	Yes	CL
lida et al <sup>9</sup>	1	?	10 y	No	Yes	CL
Kitamura <sup>10</sup>	1	?	3 y	Sinusitis	Yes	Transnasal
						Е
Kluppel et	1	?	6 mo	No	Yes	CLA+
al 11						SL
Lubbe et al	1	No	3 wk	Facial pain	Yes	CL
12						
Nakamura	1	?	Immediately	No	Yes	Transoral
et al <sup>13</sup>						Е
Ramotar et	1	?	Immediately	No	Yes	Transnasal
al <sup>14</sup>						E
	1	?	Immediately	Sinusitis	Yes	Transnasal
						E
Ridaura-	3	?	4 mo	No	Yes	CL
Ruiz et al <sup>15</sup>						
	1	?	4 mo	No	Yes	CL SL
	1	?	6 mo	No	Yes	CL
	1	?	6 mo	Sinusitis	Yes	Crestal
						approach
	1	?	6 mo	No	No	

**Table 1:** Survey of 49 Implants Displaced Into the Maxillary Sinus in 22 Journal Articles

	1	?	8 mo	Sinusitis	Yes	CL
	1	?	10 mo	Sinusitis	No	
Scarano et al <sup>16</sup>	1	?	4 mo	Sinusitis	Yes	CL
Tilaveridis et al <sup>17</sup>	1	?	Immediately	No	Yes	CL
	1	?	8 mo	No	Yes	CL
Ucer <sup>18</sup>	1	?	8 wk	No	Yes	Transoral E + SL
Galindo- Moreno et al <sup>19</sup>	1	Yes	13 mo	No	No	
	1	Yes	7mo	No	Yes	CL
Borgonovo et al <sup>20</sup>	1	No	бто	Swelling	Yes	CL + A
	1	Yes	3 mo	Sinusitis	Yes	CL
	1	?	Immediately	No	No	
Guler and Delilbasi21	1	?	Immediately	No	Yes	CL
	1	?	8y	No	No	
El Charkawi et al <sup>22</sup>	1	?	Immediately	Sinusitis	Yes	Transoral E

A indicates antrostomy; CL, Caldwell-Luc approach; E, endoscopy; SL, sinus lift with bone graft; Swelling, swelling of Schneiderian membrane

Table 2: Su	uggested Method	of Removal of I	mplants Disp	placed Into th	e Maxillary Sinus
	00		1 1		2

Complications						
Oroantral Fistula	Ostium Obstruction	Sinusitis	Paranasal Sinus Affected	Suggested Method of removal		
-	+	+	+	Transnasal endoscopy		
-	-	+	-	Transoral endoscopy		
+	-	±	-	Caldwell-Luc approach		

+" indicates yes; -, no or complications of little importance