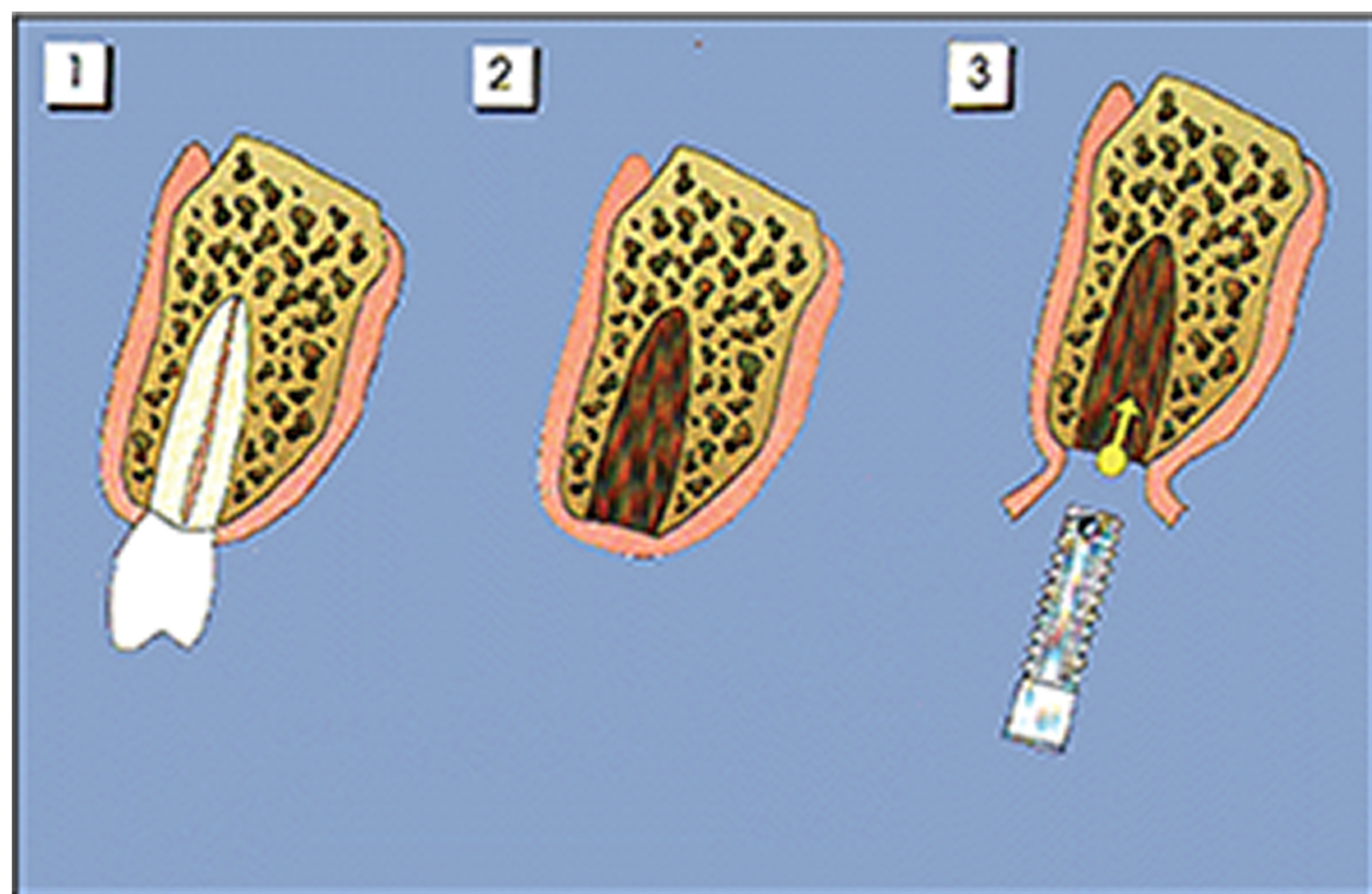




Implant-Supported Dentures



The initial step in doing an immediate implant is the extraction of the tooth and assessment of the bone surrounding the socket. An immediate implant can only be placed if the bone surrounding the socket is intact and of adequate strength to hold the implant securely. Assuming the bone is adequate, the space for the implant is then made through the socket with a series of small drills. The implant is then placed into the prepared site. If there are any significant gaps around the sides of the implant, some minor bone grafting will be necessary, either using bone taken from adjacent areas of your jaw or bone received from a bone bank (Puros).

Initially the gum may be stitched over the implant or stitched around a custom healing abutment placed at the time of the surgery. The healing abutment is the part connected to the top of the

implant to help form and maintain the contour of the gum tissue during healing. If the gum is sutured over the implant, this custom healing abutment is placed several months after the first surgery during a second minor procedure.

Once the bone has healed adequately around the implant, the final abutment and crown will be placed on the implant by your restorative dentist. Sometimes a temporary crown is placed initially to help mold the gum tissue around the implant in order to try to optimize the final esthetic result.