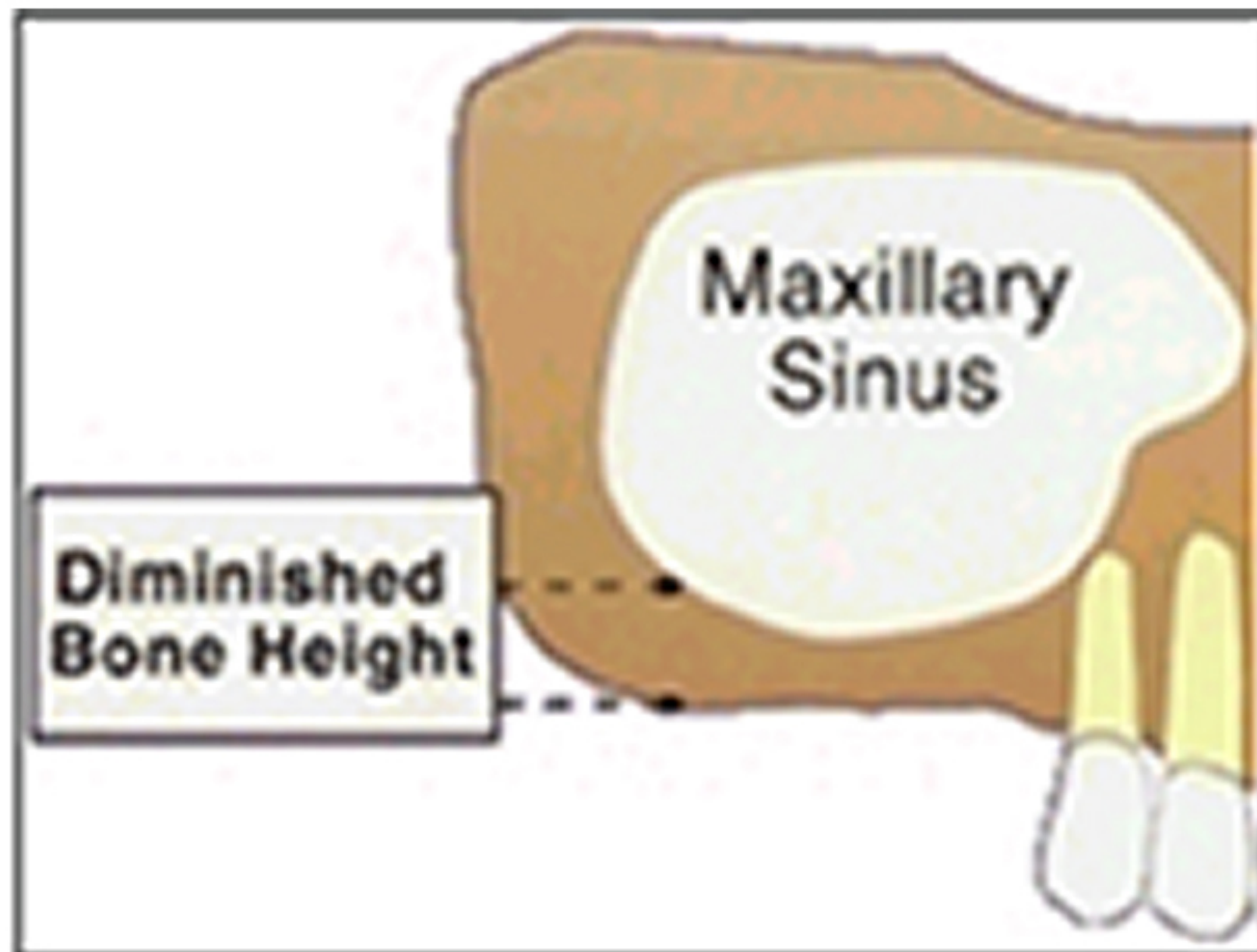




Sinus Graft/Augmentation



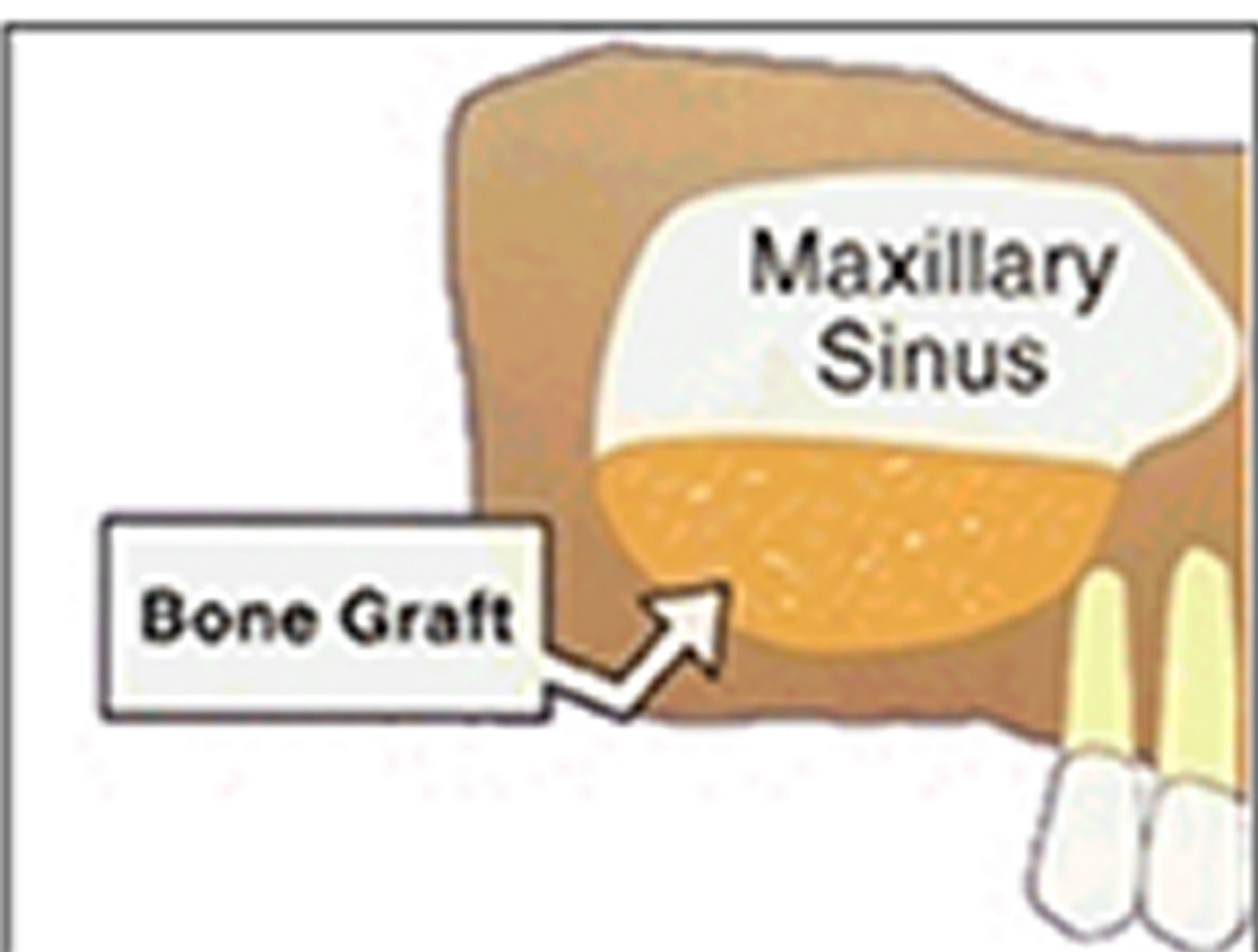
The maxillary sinus is the hollow aspect of the upper posterior jaw. After the upper posterior teeth are lost, the bone in the area diminishes such that the dental ridge lacks adequate height for implant placement. Grafting of bone into the lower sinus will facilitate implant placement.



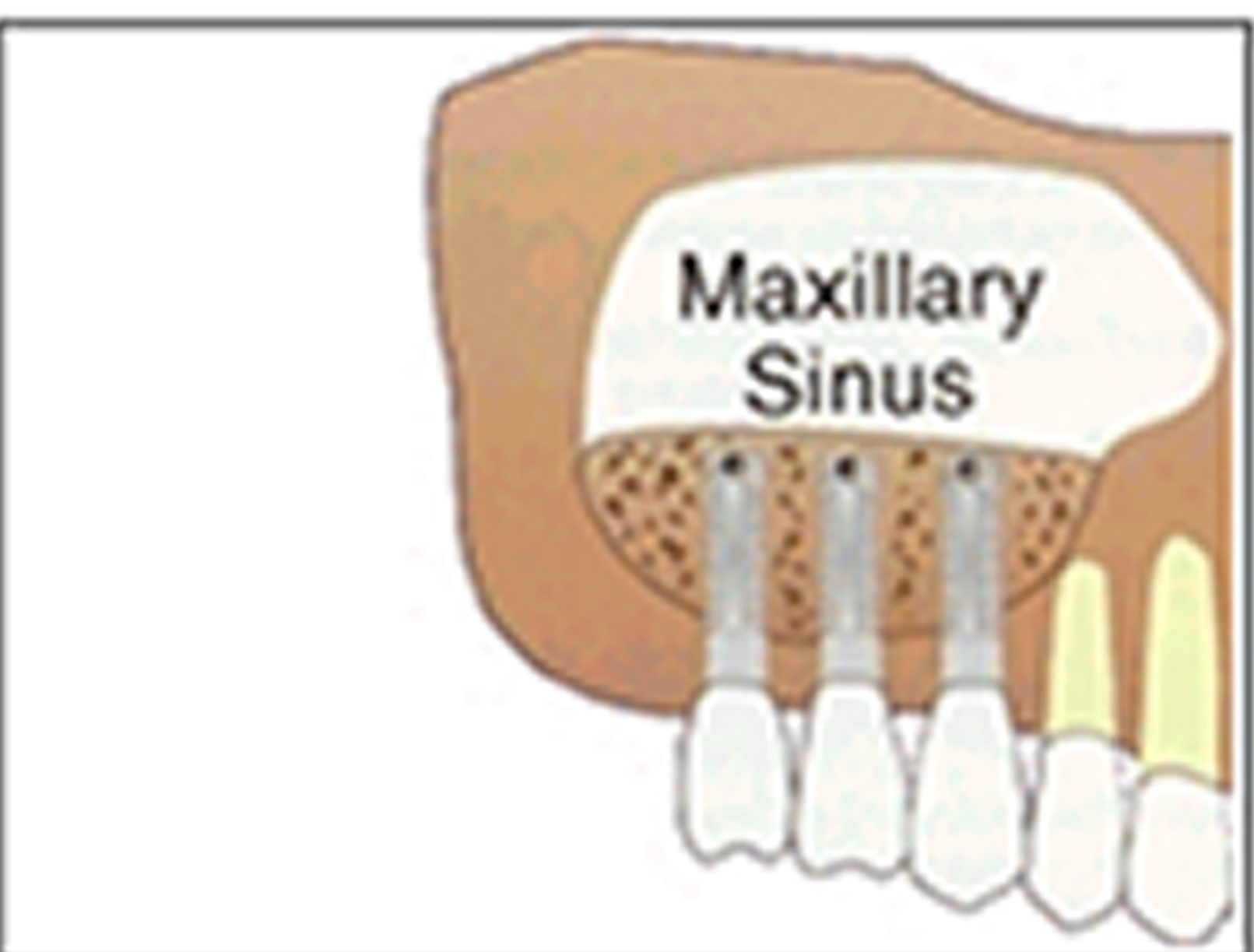
An incision is made in the gums and the tissue pushed back for access to the side of the dental ridge. A small window is created in the bone to access the sinus cavity.



The thin sinus membrane that lines the sinus is then elevated from the floor of the sinus, creating a pocket into which bone can be grafted to increase the height of the dental ridge in this area. This somewhat diminishes the size of the sinus, but it is very unusual for this to have any negative effects on the patient.



A combination of artificial bone, bone from a human bone bank, or bone taken from other areas of your jaw can then be used to build up the bone in the floor of the sinus.



The newly formed bone in the area facilitates placement of the implants. The implants may be placed after a six to eight month healing period for the bone graft. If there is enough native bone in the area, the implants are sometimes placed at the time of sinus grafting.