# World Journal of Clinical Cases

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CASE REPORT

# Two-stage transcrestal sinus floor elevation-insight into replantation: Six case reports

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#### **Abstract**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Transcrestal sinus floor elevation (TSFE) has been widely used in the oral clinic when the residual bone height (RBH) exceeds 5 mm. However, when there is insufficient RBH in the posterior maxilla, two-stage TSFE may be an option.

#### CASE SUMMARY

This article introduces the concept of two-stage TSFE. Six patients had osseointegration failure after TSFE. For the first-stage surgery, we restricted the vertical bone augmentation as much as possible. At the second-stage surgery, the increased RBH was 3.28 ± 1.55 mm, which was beneficial for surgery. Five implants functioned successfully on schedule, but one implant failed again during the healing period. A third surgery was performed, and the implant functioned successfully.

#### **CONCLUSION**

When RBH was less than 5 mm, two or more procedures of TSFE might result in a higher RBH.

**Key Words:** Transcrestal sinus floor elevation; Dental implant; Two-stage; Replantation; Failure; Case report

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**Core Tip:** When the residual bone height is less than 5 mm, two-stage transcrestal sinus floor elevation is a safe technology, which might be an excellent option to embed standard-length implants. Two-stage transcrestal sinus floor elevation could obtain more maxillary sinus membrane elevation height, especially in difficult and Checklist (2016).

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#### INTRODUCTION

Two decades ago, we could not place implants in an atrophic posterior maxilla due to limited residual bone height (RBH). As a solution to this problem, transcrestal sinus floor elevation (TSFE) has been widely used in the oral clinic, and has been proven to be an effective method for atrophic posterior maxilla<sup>[1]</sup>. Compared with lateral sinus floor elevation, TSFE is time-saving and economical, and patients experience less trauma after TSFE. Patients may suffer more complications after lateral sinus floor elevation<sup>[2]</sup>. For doctors, it is easier to master TSFE with the application of new techniques. Nevertheless, if the RBH is less than 5 mm, short implants combined with TSFE is an option to solve this problem<sup>[3]</sup>. Short implants may be prone to mechanical complications in the long term, and conventional implants are more common in oral clinics. Although TSFE combined with conventional implants could also be applied to a severely atrophic posterior maxilla[4], a higher implant protrusion length might increase the risk of perforation. Therefore, we introduced the concept of two-stage TSFE, which has seldom been mentioned in previous studies[5]. In our research, the implants combined with TSFE, showed adverse events, and another operation was required. The purpose of our study was to introduce the concept of two-stage TSFE.

#### CASE PRESENTATION

#### Chief complaints

Six patients (including four men and two women) ranging in age from 25 to 67 years consulted The First Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University for prosthetic rehabilitation (Table 1).

#### History of present illness

These six patients lost teeth in the posterior maxilla and there was insufficient RBH in the posterior maxilla.

#### History of past illness

Two patients were smokers, and none had uncontrolled systemic diseases.

#### Laboratory examinations

Blood analysis of the six patients was performed before surgery, and all results were normal.

#### Imaging examinations

Radiographic and clinical examinations were performed before surgery. Figures 1-5 show that there was insufficient RBH in the posterior maxilla. Interestingly, the RBH in the second surgery was relatively higher than that in the first surgery.

#### FINAL DIAGNOSIS

Maxillary dentition defect (insufficient residual bone height in the posterior maxilla).



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Table 1 Details of the six cases						
	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6
Gender	Woman	Man	Man	Man	Man	Woman
Age (yr)	25	54	29	63	46	67
Position	16	16	26	26	16	26
Smoking	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Diabetes	No	No	No	No	No	No
First-stage surgery						
Bone substitute	Yes, bio-oss	Yes, bio-oss	No	Yes, bio-oss	No	Yes, bio-oss
Perforation	No	No	No	No	No	No
RBH (mm)	5.22	4.43	3.35	4.56	6.10	5.22
Implant (mm)	4.8 × 10; Straumann	4.8 × 8; Straumann	4.8 × 8; Straumann	4.8 × 10; Straumann	4.3 × 10; Nobel	4.8 × 10; Straumann
Stability (N cm)	≥ 25	25	15	≥ 25	15	25-35
Failure time	1 mo	2 mo	1 yr	1 mo	7 mo	1 mo
Second-stage surgery						
Bone substitute	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, bio-oss
Perforation	No	No	No	No	No	No
RBH (mm)	11.47	8.02	6.18	7.04	8.06	9.80
Implant (mm)	4.8 × 10; Straumann	4.1 × 10; Straumann	4.8 × 12; Straumann			
Stability (N cm)	15	15	15	≥ 25	≥ 25	15
Loading time	2.5 yr	2.5 yr	0	2.5 yr	2.5 yr	2.5 yr
Third-stage surgery						
Bone substitute			No			
Perforation			No			
RBH (mm)			6.49			
Implant (mm)			5.0 × 10; Nobel			
Stability (N cm)			25			

RBH: Residual bone height.

#### **TREATMENT**

Two-stage TSFE followed by simultaneous implant placement.

#### First surgery

This study followed the Declaration of Helsinki protocols. The RBH in all patients was insufficient, and therefore, TSFE was essential to place a regular implant (implant length = 10 mm). During the operation, TSFE and implants were performed simultaneously. In four cases, we chose 10 mm-long implants, and 8 mm-long implants were used in the other two cases. After the surgery, the patients were prescribed antibiotics and chlorhexidine. We told the patients not to inhale forcefully through the nose and not to swim for a week.

Unfortunately, these six implants were found to be mobile during the healing period or at the 1-year follow-up. Therefore, the failed teeth were extracted.

#### Second and third surgery

Another surgery was performed again immediately or after a sufficient healing period, and five of the six implants functioned on schedule (Figures 1-5). We placed five 10 mm-long implants and one 12 mm-long implant in the second-stage surgery. Nevertheless, one implant failed again, and a third surgery was performed. The 10

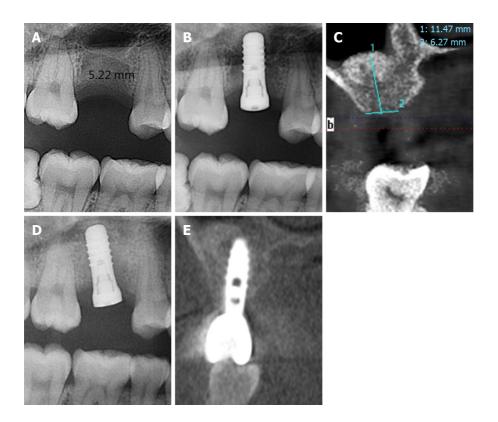


Figure 1 X-ray images of case 1. A: In the preoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 5.22 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery image of the fir ray image of the first-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); C: In the preoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 11.47 mm; D: In the postoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); E: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation.

mm-long implant functioned on schedule after the third surgery.

#### **OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP**

Table 1 summarizes the main details of the six patients. No perforations occurred in the first-stage and second-stage surgery. In addition, bone material was utilized in four cases. The mean RBH before the first-stage surgery was 4.81 ± 0.93 mm, and the mean RBH before the second-stage surgery was 8.43 ± 1.92 mm. The mean RBH before the second-stage surgery was significantly higher than that before the first-stage surgery (P < 0.05). Functional restoration of five of the six implants was successful. One implant required a third surgery and functioned successfully. Three implants have been loaded for 2.5 years, and the other two implants had been loaded for 1.5 years. These patients were satisfied with implant restoration.

#### DISCUSSION

In this study, implants combined with TSFE in the first-stage surgery showed osseointegration failure and the patients were willing to undergo further surgery. The RBH before the second-stage surgery was relatively higher than that before the first operation, which was beneficial for surgery. Five of the implants were successfully loaded. We learned from this procedure that doctors should not consider osseointegration failure of TSFE as negative. Instead, doctors must communicate with patients. If patients would like to undergo further surgery, doctors should be confident about surgery, due to the possibility of a higher RBH.

Knowledge was obtained from the six failed cases of osseointegration, which indicated that two or three TSFE procedures could increase the RBH. We called this procedure "two-stage TSFE or progressive TSFE", which has rarely been mentioned in previous studies. Therefore, the concept of two-stage TSFE was introduced. Trombelli et al<sup>[6]</sup> (2015) introduced the concept of "incremental TSFE", they performed TSFE with

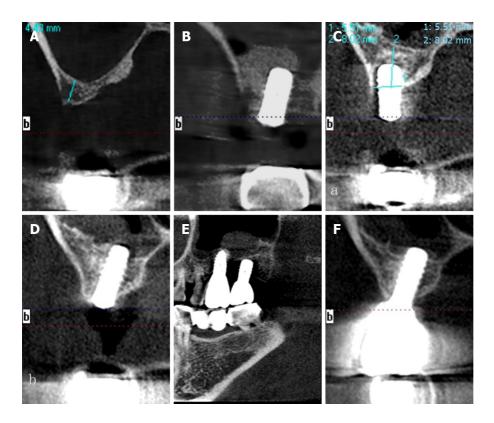


Figure 2 X-ray images of case 2. A: In the preoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.43 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.43 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.43 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.43 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.43 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.43 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery image of the firstray image of the first-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); C: In the preoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 8.02 mm; D: In the postoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); E: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation; F: The x-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation.

graft material in the first stage surgery. Several months later, TSFE was repeated at the molar sites, and conventional implants were simultaneously placed in the sites. This protocol was safe and minimally invasive, decreasing the risk of membrane laceration. Although vertical augmentation greater than 6 mm could also lead to excellent clinical performance with the development of technology[7], the implant protrusion length should be restricted owing to the lower incidence of complications.

The principle of our study was similar to that of the above study[6]. It was accidentally found that the RBH at the sites had increased after osseointegration failure. In the first-stage surgery, we chose a conservative approach as much as possible, and the membrane had the capability of osteogenesis. As a result, the RBH before the second-stage surgery was higher than that before the first-stage surgery.

We should restrict the implant protrusion length in the TSFE ( $\leq 5$  mm), which is a disadvantage of this procedure. The implant protrusion length can exceed 5 mm in the lateral sinus floor elevation, which is considered an advantage of this procedure. However, TSFE is time-saving and less traumatic. Therefore, TSFE has been widely used in oral clinics.

It is known that TSFE has a certain failure rate<sup>[8]</sup>. Patients may feel disappointed if they encounter osseointegration failure, and they may be afraid of undergoing further surgery. However, osseointegration failure does not mean that the sites cannot be implanted. Above all, we need to respect the opinion of the patients. After a detailed clinical and radiographic assessment, we performed TSFE again and embedded another longer implant, and the clinical performance of the replantation was satisfactory.

Consequently, we concluded that a two-stage TSFE protocol can be selected to embed a standard-length implant if the RBH is less than 5 mm, as the two-stage TSFE could obtain more maxillary sinus membrane elevation height. In the first-stage surgery, the graft materials can be placed after TSFE, which contributed to the secondstage surgery. The latter avoids the relatively complicated operation of lateral window sinus elevation surgery. When the residual bone height is less than 5 mm, two-stage TSFE might be a safe and good choice, and is suitable for general dentistry. The lateral window sinus elevation would cause unnecessary damage to patients and more complications. Nevertheless, the sample size in this study was limited; therefore, studies with a larger sample size are required in the future.

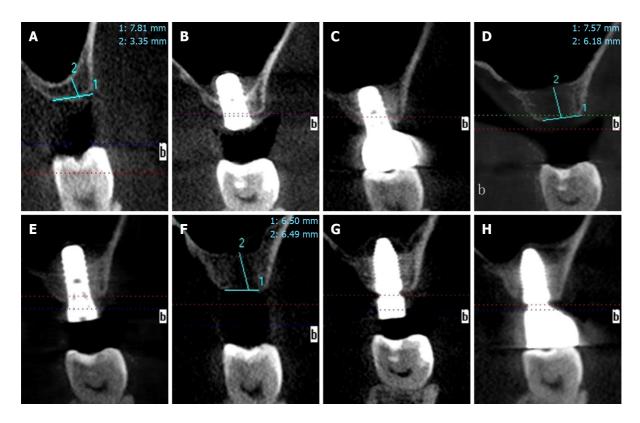


Figure 3 X-ray images of case 3. A: In the preoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 3.35 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 3.35 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 3.35 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 3.35 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 3.35 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery image of the first-sta ray image of the first-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 8 mm-long implant (Straumann); C: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation; D: In the preoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.18 mm; E: In the postoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann), the implant was found to be mobile after 4 months; F: In the preoperative X-ray image of the third-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.49 mm; G: In the postoperative X-ray image of the third-stage surgery, we placed a 5.0 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Nobel); H: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation.

### **CONCLUSION**

In summary, two-stage transcrestal sinus floor elevation might be an excellent option to embed standard-length implants when the residual bone height is less than  $5\ mm$ . In addition, there were limited cases and follow-up time in this study, failure of TSFE should be treated positively, and osseointegration failure could provide a better bone volume, which was beneficial in our implantation.

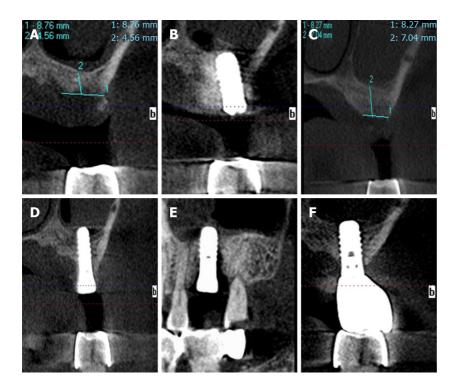


Figure 4 X-ray images of case 4. A: In the preoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.56 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.56 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.56 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.56 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.56 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.56 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 4.50 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery image of the fir ray image of the first-stage surgery, we placed a 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); C: In the preoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 7.04 mm; D: In the postoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, we placed 4.8 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); E: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation; F: The x-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation.

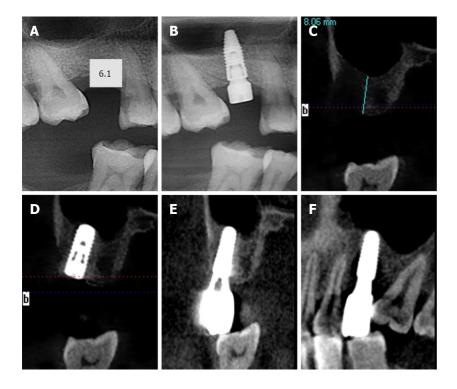


Figure 5 X-ray images of case 5. A: In the preoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.10 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.10 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.10 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.10 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 6.10 mm; B: In the postoperative X-ray image of the first-stage surgery image of the first-sta ray image of the first-stage surgery, we placed a 4.3 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Nobel); C: In the preoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, the residual bone height was 8.06 mm; D: In the postoperative X-ray image of the second-stage surgery, we placed a 4.1 mm-wide and 10 mm-long implant (Straumann); E: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation; F: The X-ray image after prosthetic rehabilitation.

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