Bone-to-implant contact after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with Bio-Oss and autogenous bone in different ratios in mini pigs

Jensen, Thomas; Schou, Søren; Gundersen, Hans Jørgen Gottlieb; Forman, Julie Lyng; Terheyden, Hendrik; Holmstrup, Palle

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Bone-to-implant contact after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with Bio-Oss and autogenous bone in different ratios in mini pigs

Key words: alveolar ridge augmentation, bone substitutes, bone transplantation, dental implants, histology, maxillary sinus

Abstract

Objectives: The objective was to test the hypotheses: (i) no differences in bone-to-implant contact formation, and (ii) no differences between the use of autogenous mandibular or iliac bone grafts, when autogenous bone, Bio-Oss mixed with autogenous bone, or Bio-Oss is used as graft for the maxillary sinus floor augmentation.

Material and methods: Bilateral sinus floor augmentation was performed in 40 mini pigs with: (A) 100% autogenous bone, (B) 75% autogenous bone and 25% Bio-Oss, (C) 50% autogenous bone and 50% Bio-Oss, (D) 25% autogenous bone and 75% Bio-Oss, or (E) 100% Bio-Oss. Autogenous bone was harvested from the iliac crest or the mandible and the graft composition was selected at random and placed concomitant with the implant placement. The animals were euthanized 12 weeks after surgery. Bone-to-implant contact was estimated by stereological methods and summarized as median percentage with 95% confidence interval (CI). Bone-to-implant contact formation was evaluated by fluorochrome labelling and assessed by median odds ratios (OR) with 95% (CI).

Results: Median bone-to-implant contact was: (A) 42.9% (95% CI: 32.1–54.5%), (B) 37.8% (95% CI: 27.1–49.9%), (C) 43.9% (95% CI: 32.6–55.9%), (D) 30.2% (95% CI: 21.6–40.3%), and (E) 13.9% (95% CI: 11.4–16.9%). Bone-to-implant contact was significantly higher for A, B, C, D as compared to E (P < 0.0001). Bone-to-implant contact was not significantly influenced by the ratio of Bio-Oss and autogenous bone (P = 0.19) or the origin of the autogenous bone (P = 0.72). Fluorochrome labelling revealed extensive variation in bone-to-implant contact formation over time. The labelling at weeks 2–3 was significantly increased with A compared to E (OR = 8.1 CI: 5.0–13.1, P < 0.0001), whereas E showed a significantly increased labelling at weeks 8–9 compared to A (OR = 0.5 CI: 0.3–0.7, P = 0.0028).

Conclusions: The hypothesis of no differences in bone-to-implant contact between the various treatment modalities was rejected since the bone-to-implant contact was significantly increased with autogenous bone or Bio-Oss mixed with autogenous bone as compared to Bio-Oss. Early bone-to-implant contact formation was more advanced with autogenous bone. No differences between the use of mandibular or iliac bone grafts were observed since the bone-to-implant contact was not significantly influenced by the origin of the bone graft.

A bone substitute of bovine origin (Bio-Oss; Geistlich Pharma AG, Wolhusen, Switzerland) (BO) is frequently used alone or in combination with autogenous bone for maxillary sinus floor augmentation, and the treatment outcome has been reported in several reviews (Wallace & Froum 2003, del Fabbro et al. 2004, Browaeys et al. 2007, Pjetursson et al. 2008, Chiapasco et al. 2009, Jensen & Terheyden 2009, Nkenke & StellZe 2009, Esposito et al. 2010, Jensen et al. 2012). The volumetric changes of the graft after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with BO and autogenous bone from the iliac crest or the mandible in different ratios have recently been evaluated radiographically by computed tomographies in 40 mini pigs after 12 weeks (Jensen et al. 2011). Three-dimensional unbiased stereological estimates documented that the volumetric stability of the graft was significantly influenced by the ratio of BO and autogenous bone, but not by the origin of the...
autogenous bone, i.e. mandibular bone and iliac bone. However, the bone-to-implant contact formation after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with different ratios of BO and autogenous bone has never been compared within the same study. Therefore, the objective of the present study was to test the hypotheses of: (i) no differences in bone-to-implant contact formation, and (ii) no differences between the use of mandibular or iliac bone grafts, when autogenous bone, BO mixed with autogenous bone, or BO is used as graft for the maxillary sinus floor augmentation in mini pigs.

Material and methods

The material and experimental design have been previously described in detail (Jensen et al. 2011). A total of 40 adult female Göteborg minipigs (Ellegaard Göteborg Minipigs A/S, Dalsnose, Denmark) were randomly divided into two groups of 20 animals. The treatment sequence of the animals was selected at random by drawing a number between one and 20. Maxillary sinus floor augmentation was performed bilaterally in conjunction with implant placement using autogenous bone harvested from either the iliac crest (Group 1) or the mandible (Group 2) and mixed with BO in different ratios at random. The allocation of graft and number of sinuses is outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

Surgical procedure

Bone graft harvesting from iliac crest

A skin incision was made above the iliac crest. A skin incision was made below the lower eyelid. A 6 mm fissure bur during continuous cooling with sterile saline solution and chisel.

Bone graft harvesting from mandible

The lateral and inferior mandibular border was exposed through a skin incision and the tissues were dissected to expose the mandible. The mental foramen including the neurovascular bundle was identified and protected. A 6 mm fissure bur during continuous cooling with sterile saline solution and chisel.

Table 1. Allocation of graft and number of sinuses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sinus no.</th>
<th>Autogenous bone from iliac crest (Group 1)</th>
<th>Autogenous bone from mandible (Group 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinus no.</td>
<td>Iliac bone (%)</td>
<td>Bio-Oss (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 8)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 8)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 8)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 8)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n = 8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Randomized selection of graft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal no.</th>
<th>Right maxillary sinus</th>
<th>Left maxillary sinus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1: 100% autogenous bone. 2: 75% autogenous bone and 25% Bio-Oss. 3: 50% autogenous bone and 50% Bio-Oss. 4: 25% autogenous bone and 75% Bio-Oss. 5: 100% Bio-Oss.

Sequential fluorochrome labelling

The bone-to-implant formation was assessed by sequential fluorochrome labelling using four calcium-binding fluorescent dyes according to Table 3 (Terheyden et al. 1999). The fluorochromes were administered by intraperitoneal injection under sedation with a mixture of 30 mg ketamine (Ketaminol; Intervet International B.V., Boxmeer, The Netherlands) and 2 mg xylazine (Rompun; Bayer HealthCare AG, Leverkusen, Germany) administered intramuscularly.

Euthanasia and perfusion

The animals were euthanized after 12 weeks and perfused by Ringer and formaldehyde solutions according to the procedure described previously for cynomolgous monkeys (Schou et al. 2002, 2003). The mini pigs were deeply anaesthetized and a midsternal incision followed by a sternal split was performed. Pars abdominaiis aortae and vena cava inferior were clamped and a 5-mm incision was made in the left cardiac ventricle. A perfusion tube with a 5-mm outer diameter was inserted and the right cardiac atrium was perforated. The perfusion was performed through the inserted infusion tube with 10 l neutral buffered Ringer solution (2500 ml/min, 20°C) containing heparin (Heparin 5.000 IE/l; Levens Kemiske Fabrik, Ballerup, Denmark) and procaine hydrochloride (Procaine hydrochloride 1 g/l; Sigma, St. Louise, MO, USA). Heparin and procaine were added to prevent blood coagulation and vessel contraction. The perfusion with Ringer solution was directly continued with 10 l 10% neutral buffered formaldehyde solution (2500 ml/min, 20°C). The perfusion equipment consisted of four glass bottles (Duran Laboratory Bottle; Schott Glas 5.000 ml, Mainz, Germany), two with Ringer solution and two with formaldehyde solution. An adjustable air-pressure pump (Air Cadet; Cole-Parmer...
Instrument, Barrington, IL, USA) was first attached to the two bottles with Ringer solution by plastic tubes. A plastic tube from each bottle was attached to a tap, thereby enabling continuous flow of Ringer solution followed by formaldehyde solution through the perfusion tube. Two tissue blocks containing each of the maxillary sinuses were resected and stored in neutral buffered formaldehyde solution at 20°C until initiation of the histological procedures.

**Histology and fluorescence microscopy**

To provide blinding of the histological and stereological evaluation, the tissue specimens were coded before undecalcified sections of the maxillary sinuses including the inserted implants were prepared using the cutting-grinding procedure [300 CP Band Saw System, EXAKT Apparatebau, Norderstedt, Germany]. The tissue blocks were initially trimmed to contain exclusively the implant and the augmented region using the band saw and an X-ray-guided technique (Schou et al. 2002, 2003).

The specimens were dehydrated in ethanol and embedded in methyl methacrylate-based resin (Technovit 7200 VLC, Kulzer, Friedrichsdorf, Germany) by including a 30-min vacuum period. The specimens were randomly rotated around the vertical implant axis and divided into two tissue blocks longitudinally to the vertical implant axis. Each of the two tissue blocks were finally divided perpendicular to the previous cutting direction longitudinally to the vertical implant axis. Consequently, each tissue block was divided into four parts. One section was obtained from each of the four parts (1, 2, 3, and 4).

Histological procedures were performed initially.

The fluorochrome image was made slightly transparent and superimposed onto the histological image using Adobe Photoshop (Version 9.0.3; New House Internet Services B.V., Rotterdam, The Netherlands).

Staining was performed with Stevenel’s blue and alizarin red S (Cerro et al. 1980; Maniopoulos et al. 1986) before coverslipping with glass coverslips and Technovit 7200 VLC. The sections were scanned (NanoZoomer Digital Pathology, 2.0, System C9600; Hamamatsu Photonics K.K., Higashi-ku, Japan) and transferred to a desktop. Thus, two images were obtained from each section, namely one fluorochrome image and one histological image stained with Stevenel’s blue and alizarin red S.

The fluorochrome image was made slightly transparent and superimposed onto the histological image using Adobe Photoshop (Version CS52, 9.0; Adobe Systems, San Jose, CA, USA). Identical magnification of the two images was ensured by adjusting the magnification of the

**Table 3. Intrapertoneal injection of fluorochromes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Fluorochromes</th>
<th>Dose (ml/kg body weight)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Xylenol orange (6% in 2% NaHCO₃ solution)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Xylenol orange (6% in 2% NaHCO₃ solution)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Calcein green (1% in 2% NaHCO₃ solution)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Calcein green (1% in 2% NaHCO₃ solution)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Alizarin complexon (3% in 2% NaHCO₃ solution)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alizarin complexon (3% in 2% NaHCO₃ solution)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Doxycycline</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Doxycycline</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig. 1.** Each specimen was randomly rotated around the vertical implant axis and divided into two tissue blocks longitudinally to the vertical implant axis. Each of the two tissue blocks were finally divided perpendicular to the previous cutting direction longitudinally to the vertical implant axis. Consequently, each tissue block was divided into four parts. One section was obtained from each of the four parts (1, 2, 3, and 4).

**Fig. 2.** The demarcation of the original border of the maxillary sinus was approximated by the fluorochrome labelling (arrow) and the intraoperatively standardized maxillary sinus wall thickness of 5 mm.
fixed systematic set of straight parallel test lines was superimposed at random over the two images perpendicular to the vertical implant axis with the first line positioned at a random vertical position allowing a total of 100–200 test lines on the four sections to hit the implant surface within the augmented region (Fig. 3) (Weibel 1979; Gundersen et al. 1981; Schou et al. 2003). Presence or absence of bone-to-implant contact was registered at all intersections between test lines and the implant surface within the previous maxillary sinus at ×1.4 magnification. Moreover, the color of the fluorochrome labelling was recorded for each intersection.

The proportion \( S_\% \) (%) of the implant surface covered by regenerated bone within the previous maxillary sinus was estimated using the following equation:

\[
S_\% = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{4} (I+bone) \times 100}{\sum_{i=1}^{4} (I+total)}
\]

where \( I+bone \) is the number of lines hitting the implant surface with bone contact within the previous maxillary sinus, and \( I+total \) is the total number of lines hitting the implant surface within the previous maxillary sinus.

Similarly, based on the registrations of the fluorochrome labelling of each intersection, the proportion \( \% \) of the implant covered by regenerated bone at week 2–3 [Xylenol orange], 4–5 [Calcein green], 6–7 [Alizarin complexon], and 8–9 [Doxycycline] was estimated.

### Evaluation of stereological procedures

To evaluate the stereological procedure, the coefficient of variation \( CV \) was calculated based on the original estimates. Moreover, the entire counting procedures, including superimposing of the fluorochrome and the histological images and the demarcation of the original border of the maxillary sinus were repeated on eight randomly selected animals (16 sinuses), and the coefficient of error \( CE \) based on the differences between the first and second set of estimates was calculated. Moreover, the differences between the repeated estimates were examined against the corresponding means by a scatter diagram (Bland & Altman 1986). The same investigator (TJ) performed all recordings.

### Data management and statistical analysis

Data management and analysis including calculation of descriptive statistics were carried out by means of the statistical software R version 2.13.0 (R Development Core Team 2011), in particular the nlme package (Pinheiro et al. 2011). The primary descriptive variable was the bone-to-implant contact. The secondary descriptive variables were the proportions \( \% \) of the implant covered by regenerated bone at week 2–3, 4–5, 6–7, and 8–9 based on the fluorochrome labelling. Results were summarized as median percentage with 95% confidence interval (95% CI).

The descriptive variables were analyzed in a random effect ANOVA model for normally distributed data. The proportions were not normally distributed, why the data were transformed prior to the analysis of variance. The logit (or log-odds) transformation was the most suitable transformation to achieve an approximate normal distribution. The following explanatory variables were included in the model: Origin of the autogenous bone graft (mandible, iliac crest), and the ratio of Bio-Oss and autogenous bone, and side (right, left). Further, mini pig (a categorical variable with 40 levels, represented by animal number) was included in the model as a random effect. The logit transformed the proportions to the logarithm of their odds [i.e. ratio between bone-to-implant contacts and non-bone-to-implant contacts]. Hence, after back-transformation with the exponential function, differences between the groups were described as ratios of median odds [reported with 95% CI]. E.g. if the median odds ratio equals two this would mean that the median ratio of bone-to-implant contacts to non-bone-to-implant contacts in one group is twice as high as in the group it is compared to.

### Results

Intra- and postoperative complications have been described in detail previously (Jensen et al. 2011). Assessment of the bone-to-implant contact was impossible in eight sinuses due to separation of the interface between tissue and implant surface: One with 100% iliac bone, one with 75% iliac bone and 25% BO, two with 50% iliac bone and 50% BO, two with 75% mandibular bone and 25% BO, and two with 100% BO.

### General histological description

The original border of the maxillary sinus could be identified by the fluorochrome labelling. The fluorochrome images showed various stages of new bone formation. However, when autogenous bone was used as graft, the bone remodelling activity appears to be more advanced. In contrast, sinuses augmented solely with BO showed negligible fluorochrome labelling. The fluorochrome labelling indicated that the new bone formation occurred primarily from the original bone of the sinus extending into the augmented region.

The histological images stained with Stevenel’s blue and alizarin red S showed that precise differentiation between newly formed bone, residual autogenous bone graft, and original bone was difficult. The bone formation appeared more homogenous after use of autogenous bone, whereas sinuses augmented with BO showed that the BO particles within the central part of the augmented region frequently were embedded entirely in connective tissue, whereas particles adjacent to the original bone were mainly surrounded by newly formed bone.

### Bone-to-implant contact

The estimates of bone-to-implant contact are presented in Fig. 4. The median bone-to-implant contact was: A) 42.9% (95% CI: 32.1...
Bone-to-implant contact formation

The estimates of bone-to-implant contact formation according to the sequential fluorochrome labelling are presented in Fig. 7 and Table 4. The labelling revealed extensive variation between the groups as well as within the individual groups. However, the labelling at weeks 2–3 was significantly increased with A compared to E (OR = 8.1 CI: 5.0–13.1, P < 0.0001), while E showed a significantly increased labelling at weeks 8–9 compared to A (OR = 0.5 CI: 0.3–0.7, P = 0.0028). The total fluorochrome labelling at weeks 2–9 was significantly increased for A, B, C, and D as compared to E (OR = 2.2, 95% CI: 1.4–3.5, P < 0.0001). The fluorochrome labelling was not influenced by the origin of the autogenous bone (P = 0.72). Images with fluorochrome labelling of the bone-to-implant contact formation close to the median values of the different treatment groups are presented in Figs 8 and 9.

Evaluation of stereological procedure

The mean CVs of the bone-to-implant contact varied between 32% and 66%. The corresponding mean CEs varied between 12% and 24%. A scatter diagram showed no relation between the differences of the repeated estimates against the corresponding means (Bland & Altman 1986). The analysis of the repeated estimates of the bone-to-implant contact showed that the total number of test lines hitting the implant surface on the second estimates was within −3.4–3.8% of the test lines hitting the implant surface on the first estimates with an estimated bias of 0.2% which is statistically insignificant (P = 0.66) (Fig. 10). Similar results were obtained for the repeated fluorochrome labelling (not reported).

Discussion

The bone-to-implant contact formation after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with BO and autogenous bone in different ratios was...
evaluated in mini pigs after 12 weeks. Stereological methods in combination with sequential fluorochrome labelling have not previously been used for the assessment of the bone-to-implant contact formation after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with BO and autogenous bone in different ratios. It was concluded that the bone-to-implant contact was significantly higher when autogenous bone or BO mixed with autogenous bone in different ratios were used compared to BO alone. In addition, fluorochrome labelling indicated that the early bone-to-implant contact formation adjacent to the implant surface was more advanced with autogenous bone compared to BO.

Systematic uniform random sampling at all levels of the stereological procedure is mandatory for obtaining unbiased and efficient estimates (Gundersen et al. 1999). Unbiased estimates of surface area can be obtained by using the vertical section technique and a systematic test system of cycloids (Baddeley et al. 1986). The present study focused on estimates of the proportion (%) of the bone-to-implant contact and not on estimates of the total surface area. Therefore, the specimens were randomly rotated around the vertical implant axis and divided into four tissue blocks longitudinally to the vertical implant axis. Systematic random procedures were included in the following steps of the counting procedures, while efficient and unbiased estimates of the proportion of the bone-to-implant contact were obtained.

The observed total variance of stereological estimates is a combination of a real difference between the specimens (i.e. biologic variation) and variation added by the stereological procedure (i.e. methodological variation). The stereological procedure of the present study was assessed by the coefficient of error (CE) (SEM/mean) for the primary outcome variable. The CVs were always higher than the corresponding CEs, why the variance of the estimates was caused mainly by a real difference between the specimens (i.e. "biologic variation") and not by errors associated with the stereological method.

Sequential fluorochrome labelling has previously been used in animal studies to evaluate new bone formation over time after

![Fig. 7. Sequential fluorochrome labelling of bone-to-implant contact with xylenol orange (a), calcein green (b), alizarincomplexon (c), and doxycycline (d). (●: iliac bone; ▼: mandibular bone; -: median).](image)

### Table 4. Median percentages of sequential fluorochrome color labelling with 95% confidence intervals (95% CI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fluorochromes</th>
<th>Bone 100% (A)</th>
<th>Bone 75% and Bio-Oss 25% (B)</th>
<th>Bone 50% and Bio-Oss 50% (C)</th>
<th>Bone 75% and Bio-Oss 25% (D)</th>
<th>Bio-Oss 100% (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xylenol orange</td>
<td>5.7% (95% CI: 3.6–8.9%)</td>
<td>4.1% (95% CI: 2.2–6.2%)</td>
<td>4.1% (95% CI: 2.2–6.2%)</td>
<td>0.8% (95% CI: 0.6–1.1%)</td>
<td>0.7% (95% CI: 0.6–0.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcein green</td>
<td>14.9% (95% CI: 9.9–21.8%)</td>
<td>10.8% (95% CI: 6.5–17.7%)</td>
<td>15.0% (95% CI: 12.2–19.3%)</td>
<td>6.6% (95% CI: 4.1–10.5%)</td>
<td>4.4% (95% CI: 3.4–5.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alizarin-complexon</td>
<td>0.7% (95% CI: 0.5–1.0%)</td>
<td>0.9% (95% CI: 0.6–1.2%)</td>
<td>1.8% (95% CI: 1.1–2.9%)</td>
<td>1.9% (95% CI: 1.2–3.0%)</td>
<td>2.4% (95% CI: 1.6–3.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doxycycline</td>
<td>0.5% (95% CI: 0.4–0.7%)</td>
<td>0.6% (95% CI: 0.4–0.8%)</td>
<td>0.9% (95% CI: 0.6–1.5%)</td>
<td>0.9% (95% CI: 0.6–1.4%)</td>
<td>1.0% (95% CI: 0.6–1.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
maxillary sinus floor augmentation with Bio-Oss or autogenous bone (Haas et al. 1998; Terheyden et al. 1999; Füirst et al. 2003; Butterfield et al. 2005; Jiang et al. 2009; Gutwald et al. 2010). However, fluorochromes have not previously been applied to assess the bone-to-implant contact formation. The evaluation of bone-to-implant contact within the augmented region necessitates identification of the original border of the maxillary sinus. The demarcation of the original border between the graft and the maxillary sinus becomes indistinct as the graft integrates. Therefore, the original border of the maxillary sinus was approximated in the present study based on the fluorochrome labelling and the intraoperative standardization of the maxillary sinus wall thickness. This method appears to enable a reliable delineation of the augmented sinus.

Bone-to-implant contact after maxillary sinus floor augmentation with BO, BO mixed with autogenous bone, and autogenous bone has previously been assessed in humans (Hallman et al. 2002; Lindgren et al. 2009) and animals (Wetzel et al. 1995; Hürzeler et al. 1997; Haas et al. 1998; Terheyden et al. 1999; Füirst et al. 2003; Schlegel et al. 2003, 2007). Bone-to-implant contact after using BO, BO mixed with autogenous bone, and autogenous bone has exclusively been compared only in one human study (Hallman et al. 2002). The study involved experimental microimplants and sinus floor augmentation with BO, a mixture of 80% BO and 20% autogenous mandibular bone, and autogenous mandibular bone (Hallman et al. 2002). No statistically significant difference in bone-to-implant contact was found for BO (32%) as compared to BO mixed with autogenous bone.
the healing periods of the experimental
studies. However, BO and autogenous bone
have been compared in three studies (Haas
et al. 1998; Schlegel et al. 2003, 2007).
Statistical analysis was conducted in only one
study demonstrating no significant differ-
ces in bone-to-implant contact in sheep
after 12, 16, and 26 weeks (Haas et al. 1998).
When BO was used, the bone-to-implant con-
tact was 27%, 24%, and 35% after 12, 16,
and 26 weeks, respectively. The correspond-
ing figures were 30%, 32%, and 36% for
autogenous bone. It is unknown why the
present results differ from those of the above
mentioned study, but the discrepancies may
de be due to different experimental designs, i.e.
different animal models and quantita-
tion procedures.
Bone-to-implant contact formation was
assessed by sequential fluorochrome label-
ling in the present study. With autogenous
bone, the early bone-to-implant contact for-
tation appears to be more advanced than
with BO as revealed by the significantly
increased fluorochrome labelling after 2–
3 weeks. In contrast, with BO, the bone-to-
implant contact formation appears to be
delayed as revealed by the significantly
increased fluorochrome labelling after 8–
9 weeks. Moreover, the labelling showed
significantly enhanced total activity with
autogenous bone or BO mixed with autoge-
nous bone as compared to BO. Therefore,
the present study indicated that BO delays
the bone-to-implant contact formation as
compared to autogenous bone. However, it
should be emphasized that all assessed
intersections between test lines and the
implant surface were not characterized by
fluorochrome staining properly due to bone-
to-implant contact formation at other time
points than included in the fluorochrome
labelling regimen.
The new bone formation occurred primar-
ily from the original bone of the sinus
extending into the augmented region. These
results are in accordance with a study in
monkeys showing new bone formation in
continuity with the original bone when no
graft was used (Scala et al. 2011). In the
present study a significant difference be-
 tween iliac and mandibular bone was
expected due to different osteogenic po-
tential (Khan et al. 2005). However, no dif-
ference was observed indicating that differ-
ces between autogenous bone graft from
the iliac crest and the mandible may
not influence the bone-to-implant contact
formation after maxillary sinus floor aug-
mentation. The background of the present
minute difference in bone-to-implant contact
between the right and left sinuses are not
immediately explainable.
The present study focused on the bone-to-
implant contact formation. Assessment of
different graft materials also includes esti-
mates of newly formed bone. The sections
were stained with Stevenel’s blue and aliza-
arin red S and precise separation of newly
formed bone, residual autogenous bone graft,
and original bone was difficult. A pilot
study revealed that precise separation was
also difficult when staining with Touluidine
blue method was used. Stereological esti-
mates of the total amount of bone within
the different groups will be reported in a
subsequent publication.
In conclusion, the hypothesis of no differ-
ces in bone-to-implant contact between
the various treatment modalities was
rejected since the bone-to-implant contact
was significantly increased with autogenous
bone or BO mixed with autogenous bone in
different ratios as compared to BO. Further-
more, early bone-to-implant contact forma-
tion adjacent to the implant surface was
more advanced with autogenous bone. No
differences between the use of mandibular
or iliac bone grafts were observed since the
bone-to-implant contact was not signifi-
cantly influenced by the origin of the bone
graft. The present study as well as recently
published study indicates that a mixture of
autogenous bone and Bio-Oss should be used
as graft material for the maxillary sinus
floor augmentation for diminishing the
resorption of the graft and for increasing
bone-to-implant contact formation (Jensen
et al. 2011). However, additional studies
involving estimates of the total amount of
new bone formation and different healing
periods are needed before final conclusions
can be made about the optimal ratio of BO
and autogenous bone.

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