Bone height–mandible only: 3 The identification and measurement of residual bone height is the most easily quantified objective criterion for the mandibular edentulous ridge. To minimize variability in radiographic techniques, the measurement should be made on the radiograph at that portion of the mandible of the least vertical height. Atwood's description in 1971 of alveolar bone loss is still applicable today: "Chronic progressive, irreversible and disabling process probably of multifactoral origin. At the present time, the importance of various cofactors is unknown." In addition, it represents a measurement of the chronic debilitation associated with complete edentulism in the mandible. Tissues remaining for .reconstruction. 2.3.4.5