PERIODONTAL PLASTIC SURGERY

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Society in general is living longer and feeling better. It is becoming more health conscious and youth oriented. Our patients are striving to not only enhance their physical and mental well being but their overall appearance and with it their smile. As a direct consequence of this, the nature and practice of dentistry is changing from simply treatment, prevention and control of disease to Cosmetic Dentistry and Plastic Periodontal Surgery.

No longer can we as periodontists be satisfied just with the elimination of disease and the stopping of gingival recession. We must now attempt to alter the gingival, bone, tooth relationship in such a manner as to achieve aesthetic natural harmonious contours by utilizing root coverage, ridge enhancement and prosthetic ridge form as well as site preparation and tissue management for implant placement.

The last few years have seen the development of new procedures and the modification of others specifically directed toward aesthetic management. The free gingival graft, the subepithelial connective tissue graft, guided tissue and guided bone regeneration are the procedures most often utilized in plastic periodontal surgery either alone or in conjunction.

Today we will attempt to present an overview of the various plastic periodontal surgical procedures. The lecture will explain and show how and where they are best utilized and the results that are achievable. It will more importantly allow the practitioner insight into how they might change the focus of their practice from simply the treatment and elimination of disease to the aesthetic management of their patient’s smile.