

PERIODONTAL HEALTH IN OKLAHOMA

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Robin's Tip

If it bleeds, it leads! Bleeding gums is the key indicator that the situation is not a healthy one. Don't diminish what the bleeding is trying to tell you.

There is inflammation present when there is bleeding, even though at first glance it doesn't look that way. So ask yourself, why is there inflammation? Get to the root cause of the bleeding and eliminate it!

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Tissue Is The Issue, But The Bone Sets The Tone

One of the most predictable and beneficial procedures completed is periodontal reconstructive surgery. It entails a variety of procedures including root coverage, tooth exposure, crown exposure, vestibular deepening, papilla reconstruction, ridge augmentation and ridge preservation.

The primary goal for performing these procedures is to benefit the periodontal health through the reconstruction of lost hard and soft tissues or by preventing additional loss, thus enhancing the patient's appearance.

Periodontal reconstructive surgery for root coverage is a common procedure performed in periodontal practices. When completed under the right circumstances, it is very predictable at correcting defects with minimum post-surgical discomfort.

There are essentially two types

of gingival recession, one is treatable with grafting and the other is irreversible. Facial recession due to mechanical factors is often reversible, or partially reversible with soft tissue grafting/periodontal reconstructive procedures. Recession due to periodontitis can affect all tooth surfaces and is irreversible. Generally speaking, complete coverage of facial recession defects is most predictable when there is no loss of interproximal bone or soft tissue.

Facial recession occurs in patients with a high level of personal and professional dental care, while chronic periodontitis, with its more generalized recession, is a disease associated with plaques and calculus. Other factors that can lead to gingival recession include tooth malposition; bone dehiscence; thin marginal soft tissue; high frenulum attachment; inflammation; inflammatory viral eruption; and dental restorative, orthodontic, or periodontal treatments.

One hundred percent root coverage is considered achievable at sites with no loss of interproximal bone or soft tissue and is designated as either Class I or II depending on the location of the soft tissue margin relative to the mucogingival junction (MGJ). Class III or IV recession defects are associated with only partial or no root coverage due to interproximal bone or soft tissue loss, or tooth malposition. Ultimately, the bone sets the tone for successful periodontal reconstructive surgery.

Recession sites left untreated will likely progress thus increasing overall attachment loss. Soft tissue grafting when done early can prevent additional loss of periodontal tissue as well as improve function and achieve a normal appearance.



Class I



Class II



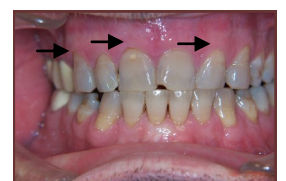
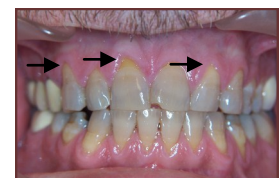
Class III



Class IV

Class I has gingival recession but no interproximal bone loss and it is not beyond the MGJ. Class II still has no interproximal bone loss but the recession is beyond the MGJ. Class III has interproximal bone loss but the recession is not beyond the MGJ. Class IV has circumferential bone loss with recession. (Miller Classifications)

Before and After





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Our mission is to give the most accurate information available about Dental Health. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there and we would like to set the record straight. We are committed to improving the foundation of a patient's smile.

We would like to answer your questions and perhaps share some of our observations we see on a daily basis through this newsletter and online. It doesn't have to be all business, hopefully we can have some fun too.

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Surprise Turnout for Third Annual Fall Fling

People ask what the difference is between our Spring Fling and Fall Fling. It is simple - the costume contest. Oh, how they love the costume contest! This year's costume contest did not disappoint - GAMEDAY GEAR! There were mostly familiar colors like crimson and cream, orange and black, and Thunder blue. A few unfamiliar team colors like area high schools and other college teams made an appearance as well. A few professional team jerseys were scattered throughout the audience too. Overall it is just fun to see how far YOU will go.

Alisha Spiwak stepped up her game by dressing in both OU and Thunder paraphernalia but she didn't stop there. She also wrote and performed a cheer for the audience! Needless to say, she won the Most Spirited award along with several other contest winners.

Other obvious differences for the Fall Fling meeting are no vendors, no massage therapists, and no BIG door prizes. Nevertheless, our mission remains the same - to provide an affordable, quality continuing education course in an environment that encourages networking among fellow hygienists. And you keep coming! A record 165 registered for this meeting, twice as many as our last fall meeting.

As always, we want to continue our mission. If you have any feedback, please don't hesitate to share it with us. Congratulations to all our costume contest winners but most of all for continuing your dental hygiene education. Spring Fling - March 30, 2012!

