

## Cosmetic aspect in periodontics

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Periodontal surgical procedures were typically resective in nature. The goals of these procedures were to debride the roots and increase the cleansability of the teeth by reducing pocket depths and modifying furcation defects, often via root removal. The value of this form of therapy on the overall retention of teeth is high, and it remains valid as a treatment modality. The unfortunate consequences of this mode of therapy include increased root exposure and decreased papillary height due to apical repositioning of the osseous crest and free gingival margin. As society has become increasingly focused on individual beauty and the retention of youth as measures of self-worth, these side effects of periodontal surgery are no longer acceptable to the majority of patients or practitioners due to the negative effects in the esthetic zone. The past 20 years have seen an increasing focus on esthetic procedures in all areas of clinical dentistry, and periodontics is no exception. The field of periodontics is continually expanding as regenerative procedures are developed in an attempt to replace missing hard and soft tissues and to prevent esthetic compromise. Periodontal plastic surgery has as its primary goal the restoration or enhancement of the esthetic component of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth or their substitutes. This can be accomplished by reshaping the existing tissues to a more pleasing form as well as by grafting or implanting natural or synthetic devices and materials to replace missing tissues or teeth.

The field of periodontal plastic surgery has become broad in scope. It includes procedures in which autogenous and non-autogenous materials are used for surgical augmentation of deficient areas, as well as the surgical reshaping of autogenous tissues to improve their appearance.

The topics were selected to update the practitioner in critical areas of periodontal science and practice of dentistry. This lecture is specifically targeted to general practitioners with a view towards providing useful, practical information that has a scientific or factual basis.

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