



MUCOGINGIVAL THERAPY (Gum Grafting)

Mucogingival therapy is most commonly indicated to treat and prevent gum recession. This procedure is done with a minimum of local anaesthetic, is generally short and is associated with limited discomfort. An analgesic prescription may be prescribed. The areas completely heal within a short period of time.

Prevention of further recession is of prime concern. Oral hygiene procedures may be modified to be effective and at the same time less traumatic to the gums.

A gingival graft is when gum tissue is transferred from one site to another. In certain instances, if the area of recession is not too broad, a graft may be successful in covering the area of gingival recession. This may restore the gum line to a level similar to the adjacent teeth and may be indicated when required for esthetic and sensitivity reasons. The coverage of the bare root is sometimes not possible and in any event does not add any significant support to the tooth.

Often the gingival graft is placed over the existing gum tissue. By thickening the gum tissue with the graft, further recession may be prevented by virtue of adding a more resistant barrier. As an added bonus, some root coverage may be achieved either initially or gradually over time (ie. "creeping attachment").