



PERIODONTAL (FLAP) SURGERY)

The most common indication for this treatment is when the periodontal pockets are too deep and where residual plaque and calculus cannot be adequately cleaned with non-surgical scaling and root planing. When plaque and calculus are left at the base of the pocket, there is a risk that there will be further bone loss, even though the patient may be unaware of the deterioration.

This procedure is carried out with local anaesthetic (similar as for routine fillings) such that there is no discomfort during the procedure. Patients may take prescribed analgesics if needed and usually return to their regular routine the following day.

The most important goal of this treatment is to improve access and visibility to clean off the plaque and calculus. In some cases, the pocket depths are reduced to help facilitate cleaning by both the patient and dental professional. Accomplishing these goals helps to assure that further bone loss will not take place, however proper preventive maintenance therapy is needed.

With reduction of pocket depths, some side effects may occur such as:

- Temporary increase in tooth sensitivity
- Gum recession with spaces and food traps
- Temporary effect on your speech
- Temporary slight tooth loosening
- Temporary swelling
- Temporary jaw discomfort

If patients do not carry through with recommended treatment, then there may be an increased risk of:

- Deepening of periodontal pockets
- Periodontal infections
- Loosening and/or shifting of teeth
- Loss of teeth