

## **Periodontal Surgery**

**1. What is informed consent?** It is very important for you to understand your condition and the necessary procedures that you will undergo in treatment. We want you to be aware of all the advantages and disadvantages of each procedure as well as alternatives. **This document in no way obligates you to any treatment.** We hope it will answer your questions or generate new ones which we will be glad to discuss with you.

**2. Definitions** Periodontal surgery includes the terms flap surgery, pocket reduction surgery, bone grafting for periodontal regeneration.

**3. Why do I need this procedure?** Surgery is recommended to improve and repair damage to your gums caused by periodontal disease.

**4. Will the surgery hurt?** There is always some discomfort with any surgery. You will be given local anesthetics (e.g. Novocaine). You can expect to be comfortable during the procedure. Reactions to these anesthetics are rare, but please let us know if you have ever had a reaction.

Prescriptions for oral medications will be given for discomfort following the procedure. Most patients are comfortable with mild pain medications. A few patients will have moderate to severe discomfort that requires stronger medication.

Antibiotics are sometimes prescribed. If you are a female on oral contraceptives, they may be less effective at preventing pregnancy. You should consider additional protection at this time.

Patients who smoke or have a habit of grinding or clenching their teeth tend to have greater discomfort.

### **5. Are there risks?**

Periodontal surgery is extremely safe and complications are very rare. However, with all surgery there are possible problems that include:

- Bleeding that may be difficult to control.
- Infection that may require further treatment.
- Nerve damage can occur during the procedure, resulting in partial or permanent numbness.
- Tooth sensitivity to hot and cold.
- Tooth mobility either temporary or permanent.
- Discomfort.
- Need for additional surgery

With the routine use of local anesthetics there is the risk of an allergic response, swelling and facial discoloration associated with a hematoma (bruise) or possible temporary or permanent numbness to the lips, cheeks or tongue.

**6. Potential need for regeneration and/or grafting:** At times grafting and regeneration of lost bone becomes necessary during the procedure that was not anticipated in advance. The doctor may be required to do additional therapy for the benefit of a better result.

**7. What will the first week be like?** During the first 24 hours after surgery, you should take it easy and apply ice inside your mouth and cold compresses to the outside of your face according to the directions we will give you. Keeping the surgical area cold the first day will help keep down swelling, pain and bleeding. Slight bleeding is common after surgery and you will be given instructions on how to manage it.

Don't be afraid to take the recommended medications. If you take them exactly as prescribed, your post operative complications and discomfort will be minimal. Always call the doctors if you develop a rash or reaction to any medications. Never take over-the-counter pain medications with your prescriptions unless you check with the doctors.

Slight swelling and bruising are common. The medications should keep you comfortable, but if you are not, please be sure to contact the doctors. Most patient can return to their normal functions the day following the surgery, but a small percentage of patients may take a few days to feel able to return to regular activities.

**6. How will my teeth look after surgery?** You can expect teeth in the surgical area to have more root exposed, but generally these are your back teeth and your smile may not be affected. Since exposing more tooth is an intentional part of the procedure, this can be an esthetic problem if it involves the front part of your mouth or a tooth that shows. In most cases your dentist can correct this with restorative techniques.

The gum tissue of the adjacent teeth to the target tooth can be altered by the surgery. This is because the surgical incision usually extends one to two teeth on either side. The extent of the surgery dictates how much it will affect the adjacent teeth.

**7. Follow up:** It is very important to follow the instructions and appointment sequence outlined to you. You will receive specific oral hygiene instructions and follow up appointments. Long term you will need to follow a personal and professional cleaning program designed to prevent recurrence of your condition.

**10. Complications:** With all surgical procedures, complications beyond what has been listed can occur that are unforeseen, complex and serious. These situations may require the referral to other health professionals and may require hospitalization.

**11. Conclusion:** I have been fully informed of the nature of periodontal therapy, the procedures to be utilized, the risks and benefits, the alternatives available and the necessity for follow-up and self care. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions I may have in connection with the treatment and to discuss my concerns with my periodontist. After thorough deliberation, I hereby consent to the performance of periodontal / implant therapy as presented to me during consultation and in the treatment plan presentation. I also consent to the performance of such additional or alternative procedures as may be deemed necessary in the best judgment of my periodontist.

**12. Additional comments:**

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*I certify that I have read and fully understand this document.*

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Date

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Signature

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Witness

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Printed Name

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Printed Name of Witness