



Firm Foundations, New Beginnings

CAPE FEAR PERIODONTICS AND DENTAL IMPLANTS

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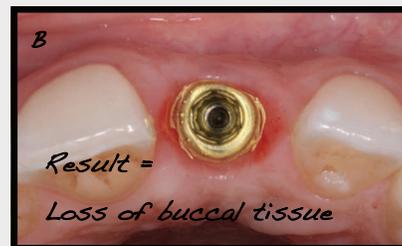
Headline: The Palatal Pedicle Graft - Repair of Implant Recession

In this newsletter we would like to highlight the use of a **palatal pedicle graft** to treat an esthetic implant complication. This young female presented with recession and of loss gingival thickness on an implant which was **placed only two years earlier** by a surgeon in her hometown. But, before we get to the procedure, let's take a look at why this happened...



In our last issue we discussed the importance of **palatally biased implant placement in the esthetic zone**. It offers two distinct advantages: 1) **Helps prevent soft tissue recession and buccal bone loss**. 2) Allows for a **screw-retained crown** which prevents concerns over sub-gingival cementation.

Esthetic Failure: The photos below demonstrate what can happen if an implant is improperly placed with the long axis facial to the incisal edge (*photo A*), and the resulting loss of buccal bone and gingiva (*photo B*). Note that despite the esthetic complication, radiographically the implant appears stable.



Palatal Pedicle Graft: To achieve an increase in gingival thickness and height, a pedicle graft was used to temporarily submerge the implant. The procedure uses a **tunneling technique** to "tuck" the pedicle under the facial gingiva (**note: no papilla elevation**). After a short healing period the implant is uncovered and a temporary crown is used to restore the gingiva to ideal contours.

We are constantly striving to improve surgical techniques, incision designs, and instrumentation to result



in more predictable outcomes for your patients. We believe our role as periodontists is to support your patients in any way that we can. If you have a patient with a failing implant, or an implant with recession we would be honored to help.

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