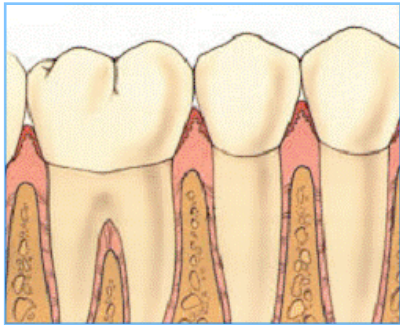


Periodontal Flap Surgery - Risks & Benefits



Showing healthy teeth, gums tight and light pink in colour, bone levels high and supporting tooth.



Showing periodontally involved teeth, deepening pockets, calculus and plaque on the roots, red inflamed gums and shrinking bone levels.

Periodontal Disease - A Destructive Process

Periodontal disease often results in the formation of deep spaces or pockets underneath the gums. With deep pockets, it is difficult and often impossible to reach the residual bacterial plaque and calculus that is under the gum with regular scaling and root planing. Deepening of the pockets and further loss of bone support is likely to be experienced if the plaque and calculus are not removed. Periodontal flap surgery is often recommended to remove the plaque and calculus, correct the pocket, and reshape the tissues to allow for increased access for brushing and flossing, thus preventing future problems. Flap surgery allows access and visibility of the root surface to ensure all debris is removed.

How is it done?

Periodontal flap surgery is performed with the use of local anesthesia for your comfort. The surgical technique involves temporarily folding back the gums from the roots of the teeth so that the plaque and calculus can be removed. The periodontal tissues are reshaped, and then sutured back around the roots. Sometimes, a periodontal dressing is placed over the sutured areas. In some cases, additional procedures are required (i.e. bone grafts, root resections, or guided tissue regeneration). If these procedures are needed they will be discussed with you prior to proceeding with such treatment.

What should I expect after the surgery?

In terms of recovery, most, but not all patients report they are able to return to regular activities the day following treatment. Complete post operative instructions are provided on the day of treatment. Sutures will be placed and removed 10 days later. You will be required to eat softer foods during that time.

Possible Side Effects:

As with any surgical endeavor, there are side effects of which you should be aware: These possible effects are usually transient and in most cases do not remain to be of concern. They include, but are not limited to: possible temporary increase in tooth sensitivity, mostly to cold, more space developing between the teeth, which may result in some food impaction, longer feeling and looking teeth, temporary slight loosening of the teeth, possible transient restricted mouth opening and/or jaw discomfort, temporary swelling, bruising, bleeding or infection. Patients taking bisphosphonate medications have an increased risk of bone healing complications.

Contact Us:

By Phone
416.512.1146

By Email:
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Hours of operation:

Mon - Wed: 9am - 5pm
Thurs: 1pm - 6pm
Fri: 9am - 2pm

After hours emergency:

Dial 416.512.1146 and press 5 as soon as the voicemail greeting begins and your call will be routed to Dr. Galler directly. If you are unable to reach him via phone, email drcc@rogers.com.

Please note:

After hours contact should be reserved for emergencies only. We are always pleased to serve you during regular business hours.

Remember!

In order to achieve long-term periodontal health there must be long term supervision of your periodontal health. This requires a commitment from yourself, your dentist and your periodontist.

Dr. Cary Galler, Periodontics and Dental Implants

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