

## CLINICIAN CORNER

### DR. ROBERT A. LEVINE



**Robert A. Levine, DDS, FCPP**

PA Center for Dental Implants and Periodontics  
9880 Bustleton Avenue, Suite 211-212  
Philadelphia, PA 19115  
Phone 215/677 8686  
Fax 215/677 7212  
[www.padentalimplants.com](http://www.padentalimplants.com)

Periodontitis, or “gum disease,” is a chronic bacterial infection that damages the gums and bone supporting the teeth. Early treatment is essential and left untreated, it can lead to tooth loss. More importantly, observational studies have noted a possible association between gum disease and more serious problems such as cardiovascular disease. There is no definitive evidence at the present time that proves that gum disease causes heart disease or that treating gum disease reduces the risk.<sup>1</sup> As ongoing research continues to define how periodontal disease is associated to this and other health problems, good oral health is essential.

Your hygienist can lay the ground work for case acceptance by early detection of potential problem areas involving breakdown of enamel, soft tissue, and bone. When a hygienist evaluates and discusses the patient’s needs, they can help them to appreciate what is possible<sup>2</sup>. From the identification of a specific problem to the education about potential treatment, a patient is more likely to say “yes” to treatment before you walk into the operatory after a discussion with the hygienist. The mission of your hygiene department should include an evaluation of our patients for any issues that may eventually compromise their overall health.



Before and after photos illustrate gingival recession and tissue regeneration as a result of treatment using the double pedicle connective tissue graft technique with Emdogain™, using the palate as the donor tissue. Photos courtesy of Dr. Robert Levine.

Gingival recession can appear as a seemingly minor problem that many simply associate with esthetics but when patients have gingival recession with bleeding pockets, it could be an open source of infection. Patients can have a healthy mouth and practice good oral hygiene and yet, still experience site specific areas of gingival recession. Most are not even aware of it. Areas of recession can be caused by toothbrush abrasion and trauma<sup>3</sup>. Recession can lead to the exposure of the tooth’s root

surface causing esthetic problems and sensitivity. Early diagnosis and treatment of gingival recession is important because the situation can worsen to where predictable root coverage isn’t possible<sup>4</sup> and esthetics become compromised. Correct initial diagnosis is key.<sup>2</sup> The goal is to deliver optimal treatment outcomes and to provide our patients with more predictable results.<sup>4</sup>

There are many products that are used to help the clinician obtain optimal results for our patients. Straumann® Emdogain™ when combined with a coronally advanced flap (CAF) is one such product. This unique product is a biology-based and scientifically proven solution designed to promote predictable regeneration of hard and soft tissues lost to periodontal disease for a natural-looking result<sup>5</sup>. Without the use of Emdogain, we might perform either a simple coronally advanced flap or add in connective tissue graft harvested from the palate. With the use of Emdogain, patients tend to have less pain and discomfort<sup>5</sup> because there does not have to be a need for a second surgical site. Straumann Emdogain is designed to promote the regeneration of hard and soft tissues that anchor your teeth. When patients learn this, treatment compliance increases.

Prior to Emdogain, there was no tissue-stimulating protein on the market to regenerate the tissues and bone that support teeth. Today, over one million patients worldwide have been treated with Emdogain.

Compared with traditional treatments, the use of Emdogain offers:

- Enhanced periodontal wound healing as reported by clinicians
- Less pain and discomfort<sup>5</sup> for patients



Before and after photos illustrate gingival recession and tissue regeneration as a result of treatment using the double pedicle connective tissue graft technique with Emdogain, using the palate as the donor tissue. Photos courtesy of Dr. Robert Levine.

Emdogain is designed to reverse recession naturally. How? In much the same way stem cells work to generate new cell growth, Emdogain uses proteins – which the body produces naturally – to regenerate lost gum tissue, bone and the structures that anchor teeth to bone.<sup>6</sup>

Why Straumann Emdogain? Straumann® is a pioneer of innovative solutions with products that are tested, proven and backed by scientific evidence. Their affiliation with the ITI (International Team for Implantology), Basel, Switzerland, as well as philanthropic support of the National Foundation of Ectodermal Dysplasias, speaks volumes for Straumann's unyielding commitment to research, science and education. Through collaboration, they work closely with highly renowned clinicians and researchers to provide evidence-based guidelines for diagnosis, referral and treatment options.

## References

- <sup>1</sup>American Heart Association. Periodontal Disease and Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease. Retrieved May 24, 2012, from <http://newsroom.heart.org/pr/aha/periodontal-disease-and-atherosclerotic-234243.aspx>.
- <sup>2</sup>Levine, Robert A., Makrauer, Zola. "The Use of Periodontal Plastic Procedures in Aiding Cosmetic Restorative Results." *Compendium of Continuing Education in Dentistry*, 2003; 24(10):729-741.
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- <sup>4</sup>Miller PD. A classification of marginal tissue recession. *Int J Periodontol Rest Dent*. 1985;5,8-13.
- <sup>5</sup>McGuire MK, Nunn M. Evaluation of human recession defects treated with coronally advanced flaps and either enamel matrix derivative or connective tissue. Part I: comparison of clinical parameters. *J Perio*. 2003;74(8):1110-1125.
- <sup>6</sup>McGuire MK, Cochran DL. Evaluation of human recession defects treated with coronally advanced flaps and either enamel matrix derivative or connective tissue. Part 2: Histological evaluation. *J Periodontol*. 2003;74(8):1126-1135.