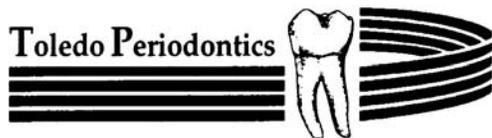


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PERIODONTICS REPORT™

Periodontal Esthetics

Our society places a high value on health, fitness and a youthful appearance, a trend that is evident in the great popularity of esthetic dentistry. Tooth whitening and the use of laminates are only 2 examples of the way new treatment systems and improved dental materials can positively affect a person's appearance and thereby improve a person's self-perception and quality of life.

Physical appearance, which is defined in part by the smile, is a significant component of a person's self-image, posture and confidence. The teeth and supporting structures of the periodontium make an important contribution to the overall esthetic appearance of a smile. Thus, dental and disorders of the periodontium associated with anterior teeth can have an adverse effect on appearance.

Periodontitis is characterized by loss of bone and soft tissue, which often results in an irregular and apical position of the gingival margin. In both gingivitis and periodontitis, the normally pink gingiva that forms knife-edge papillae between the teeth appears red or dark red and swollen. Further, local areas of gingival recession associated with a buccally placed tooth or resulting from toothbrush trauma can greatly affect the

appearance of the teeth in the anterior esthetic zone, especially if the patient displays a complete smile. A patient with a wide smile and a full complement of gingiva who smiles naturally (Figure 1) displays a classic smile, which is a classically pleasing smile. Periodontal treatment can contribute to an improved esthetic condition as a result of scaling and root planing, or with the use of surgical procedures to correct specific periodontal soft-tissue or hard-tissue defects.

This issue of *Periodontics Report* reviews studies of different surgical approaches for obtaining root coverage, the effect of smoking on surgical procedures used for root coverage, perceptions about the results of root coverage procedures and the effect of periodontal health on patients' perceptions regarding quality of life.

WINTER 2009

Smoking and Root Coverage

Root Coverage Using Different Approaches

Perception of Root Coverage

Periodontal Disease and Quality of Life