

Yankee Dental Congress 29: a Minuteman debriefing

If you attended my program, *Periodontal Plastic Surgery (PPS) for Exposed Roots – the better option*, thank you so much for coming! I hope I was able to shed some light on treatment possibilities for this common problem of exposed and damaged root surfaces. Effective, patient-friendly therapies are important, especially when the exposures are in the **Esthetic Zone**, making patients very self conscious of the altered appearance of their teeth. Perhaps we will have opportunities to collaborate on combined treatment procedures in the future. If you were not at Yankee this year, or if you were but not at my lecture, let me give you a brief **gist** of the material and the all important **take home message**:

*Restorative treatment utilizing composite resins have traditionally been used to restore root surface defects such as shallow caries, abrasions, erosions, abfractions or just hypersensitive dentin. Although this can yield satisfactory results and is perfectly appropriate for some patients, for other individuals with high smile lines, the results can be unacceptable. Here is where current techniques in PPS can produce superior outcomes. The periodontist's main armamentarium consists of the lateral or coronal pedicle flap, and the versatile connective tissue graft. All these techniques effectively regain clinical (and some connective tissue) attachment to the previously exposed roots. The really good news is that the end result of these **plastic surgical** manipulations is grafted tissue that esthetically blends with adjacent tissues. After healing, it is almost impossible to distinguish the "old" gingival tissues from the "new" grafted tissue. The really, **really** good news is that the much dreaded "pain in the roof of the mouth" concern is virtually eliminated by today's method of graft harvesting of the **under-layer** of palatal gingiva. The last portion of my lecture illustrated how **PPS in conjunction with your restorative therapy** can be coordinated to reverse older treatments where filling or veneer materials, or even crowns, previously covered the exposed roots. The end results are definitely superior.*

So, there was something for just about everyone to consider as they returned to the office Monday morning. This synopsis gives you the **gist** I was referring to above. Realizing that the essence of my material was visual, here's the bottom line. Around the time you receive this **special edition** NewsNotes, the entire lecture should be posted on my web site. All you need is internet access and you can flip through the text and images presented. Since I am so enthused with *spreading the word* about incorporating **PPS** for root coverage into our treatment planning psyches, I will literally go the extra mile! If you want an individual presentation for your office, or for a small group of offices, I will arrange to visit with my Power Point loaded laptop. This technology certainly makes lecturing much more portable than in the days of lugging Carousel projectors and a suitcase of trays from venue to venue. Please call if interested in a **private showing Rated PG!**

Last point – For those of you who want a more in depth look at **PPS techniques**, you are always welcome to come to my office and see a procedure performed live. This has worked extremely well with some doctors who are present when one of their patients is in the chair. The patients are really impressed with the interest and attention to their case! It's a win win event for all involved.