

“Will you still love me tomorrow?”

Carole King wrote these famous lyrics, and the 45 RPM recording by the Shirelles in 1960 instantly catapulted this girl group to rock 'n roll fame. I'm borrowing this phrase about longevity also in reference to the potential for long term rather than short term gratification. The context here, however, is stability of exposed root surface coverage and gingival attachment with the **CTG - connective tissue graft!** By now you should be convinced that the **CTG** procedure clearly results in excellent root coverage and a very compatible tissue match, without pocket depth. The **“tire patch”** graft introduced in the 1960s should be a thing of the past. But you may ask, **“How long will it last?”** This is the common question that dental patients, who always expect **permanent** solutions, usually ask. Fortunately, like fine vintage wine, the outcome is stable and actually improves with age. In a recent issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*, **CTGs** were evaluated longitudinally over a 3 year span. The study results confirmed stability during the observation period. In my own experience, not only have I observed maintenance of the surgical outcomes, but I find that the grafts actually look better and more natural as they mature. Rest assured, with the **CTG** procedure, what you love to see today, will be there tomorrow, and tomorrow, and

Enhancing Esthetics – the price to be paid

Several years ago if you asked me to rattle off the common etiologies for gingival recession, I would have listed the usual suspects: tooth brush abrasion, buccal tooth position (combinations of these produce the most dramatic changes), orthodontic expansion, frenal pull, plaque & calculus accumulation with chronic inflammation, etc, etc. The list has now become longer with the prevalence and popularity of body piercing – at least tongue and lip piercing. For many, the price paid for these various body enhancements goes beyond the cost to pierce and install the jewelry. Occasionally, when I evaluate localized tissue recession on the lingual aspect of lower anterior teeth, I have to inquire about use of tongue barbells. Sometimes it's a no-brainer diagnosis since the patient presents with the jewelry in place, rubbing directly against the site of pathology! *The Journal of Periodontology* in March of last year published an article about this periodontal issue and the tooth related damages associated with these barbells flapping around the mouth. As far as treatment, it's straightforward - eliminate the etiology and depending on the degree of tissue damage, plan a tissue graft. Recommending an alternate piercing site is service I generally don't provide.

eReferrals

Phone calls from you detailing nuances of a particular patient's problem are always welcome before an exam. “Check offs” on pre-printed *Referral Slips* I provide are typically a very efficient form of communication. Email referrals, however, are even more expedient. Through the **Doctors** tab of my web site, you can access a **Referral Form** and with “lightspeed” information about your patient can arrive at my office. All this without licking an envelope or applying a stamp. It's a great invention; try it, you'll like it!