

Columbia Perio Study Club: Hands on Periodontal Surgical Procedures for the General Dentist

Mentors: Dr. Brad McAllister and Dr. Thomas Eshraghi

This study club is designed to assist the general dentist in learning diagnostic, treatment planning and surgical periodontal procedure skills to provide patients with naturally looking restorations and healthy surrounding soft tissues. With our hands on emphasis for teaching periodontal surgical techniques, the general dentist will be better equipped to handle straightforward periodontal surgical procedures in their office and will be able to identify more complex cases for referral to the periodontist. Often, patients present with gingival deformities, such as tissue deficiency or excessive gingivae, thereby posing a challenge around teeth and/or implants. Other problems include subgingival caries and tooth fractures. These typically lead to difficulties in managing the restoration and an inability to take proper impressions. This study club is designed to provide clinicians with the scientific background and surgical techniques to perform periodontal surgery for ideal esthetics and function. It will address the methods to attain success from a soft tissue perspective and long-term optimal restorative outcomes. The areas of diagnosis and treatment planning, complication management, medical emergency management and when a referral is indicated, will be a critical part of the learning process. Participants will learn about the following key periodontal surgical techniques:

1. **Functional crown lengthening** and its indications prior to restorative treatment.
2. **Esthetic crown lengthening** to provide the patient with the optimal smile with or without restorative intervention.
3. **Soft tissue surface grafting** for increasing keratinized tissue and changing the gingival phenotype.
4. **Connective tissue grafting** for root coverage and changing the gingival phenotype.
5. **Socket bone grafting** for pontic or implant site development.
6. **Pocket reduction procedures** to manage localized periodontal defects.

With lecture and hands on patient treatment, this study club will teach appropriate flap designs and suturing technique to optimize the outcomes from these different periodontal surgical procedures to allow the general dentist to obtain excellent clinical results for both teeth and implants.

This ongoing study club will have six half day meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at OHSU consisting of both lecture and live patient treatment. There will be a concentrated lecture series early on for those new to the study club. These lectures will also be available to existing study club members.

Interested clinicians please email Brad McAllister to sign up.

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