

Commonly Asked Questions:

Q: How long does a gingival graft procedure take?

A: The visit to perform a gingival graft is about 60 minutes long. Dissolving stitches are used. One or two 10 minute check-ups are scheduled to ensure the area has healed correctly.

Q: Will the gingival graft procedure hurt?

A: Only “novocaine“ is necessary to perform a gingival graft. You will feel nothing once the area has been numbed. When the ‘novocaine” wears off, there may be mild discomfort. Medication will be prescribed to control any discomfort you might experience. This procedure will not cause you to miss work.

Q: What is the cost of a gingival graft?

A: The cost of a gingival graft will vary with the situation. Your periodontist will discuss this with you before proceeding with any treatment.

Q: How well will the gingival graft procedure work?

A: A gingival graft procedure is highly predictable. The end result is a healthy, stable band of attached gum tissue, which improves your esthetics and helps to reseal and protect your tooth and underlying bone.

Treating Your Gum Recession



In health, a tooth is surrounded by two types of tissue. The first is gingiva (gum), which is pink in color and thick and dense under a microscope. Gingiva forms a tight seal around the tooth, which serves as a barrier against penetration of bacteria to your underlying supporting bone. The gingiva also helps to withstand trauma from brushing, eating, etc.

The other type of tissue is mucosa. It is red, thin and appears loose under a microscope. It does not seal tightly around the tooth, or withstand trauma well (as shown by how easily you can “scrape“ the floor of the mouth).



Severe recession is present.

When gum recession occurs, the body loses a natural defense against both bacterial penetration and trauma.

If recession reaches the mucosa, your first line of defense against bacteria is lost.

No matter how meticulously you try to control the bacteria when the gum has been lost, there is a greater chance of bacteria affecting the supporting bone around your teeth.

Gum recession also results in root sensitivity to hot and cold foods, and an unsightly appearance.

A gingival gum graft solves these problems.



Following a gingival graft procedure, the area is healthy and more esthetic.

The gingival graft covers the exposed portion of the root, improving both your health and esthetics.

The gingival (gum) graft procedure is highly predictable, and results in a stable, healthy band of attached tissue around your tooth.