

FDI Symposium Presentations

Enhancing Patient Compliance in Soft Tissue Management

Robert Fazio, DMD
Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA

Patient compliance is a key factor in successful soft tissue management programs. Enhancing patient compliance is a short and long term challenge for the clinician. Understanding the fundamentals of motivation -- minimizing pain while maximizing aesthetics, healing and function -- is the result of thoughtful planning. Healing improves with good oral hygiene, yet oral hygiene measures in a surgical site can be painful. Antibiotic therapy may be essential to controlling the infection, but how can we be sure the patient takes the medication? A repeating cycle of pain and relief with a poor analgesic strategy can jeopardize the patient's commitment to care. The armamentarium of oral hygiene (brush, floss and toothpaste) if cumbersome to use, or aesthetically ineffective, can insure failure. A comprehensive strategy to avoid these patient pitfalls will be reviewed.