



The multiple coronal advanced flap: 20 years of clinical experience

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The Coronally Advanced Flap (CAF) has been published in 2000 for the treatment of multiple gingival recession in aesthetic areas. In 20 years it has become one of the most worldwide techniques used in periodontal mucogingival surgery thanks to its innovative aspects: the peculiar flap design, the split-full-split elevation approach, and the coronal advancement. During the following years, the originally described technique has not been modified. Obviously, surgical instruments and suture materials have refined over the years and therefore allowed the technique to become more precise. But basically, the main evolution the CAF has undergone over the years was in its indications. CAF has become a surgical technique not only limited to gingival recessions coverage but has become a “treatment philosophy”. The CAF is now used in reconstructive surgery to obtain periodontal regeneration along with an esthetic improvement, it is used simultaneously with implant placement to obtain a correct emergence profile and length of the implant-supported crown and in the treatment of edentulous areas to obtain a soft tissue augmentation.

The goal of this lecture is to describe the evolution in “treatment philosophy” of the CAF in its current fields of application.