



SOFT TISSUES MANAGEMENT IN ALVEOLAR RIDGE RECONSTRUCTION

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Vertical augmentation presents one of the greatest challenges of bone regeneration in implant dentistry. This is primarily due to the difficulty of the surgical procedure and its potential complications.

Soft tissue closure is of primary importance in achieving undisturbed healing.

In an attempt to achieve wound closure and hence graft stability, the buccal mucosa are often broadly released, and this often results in a severe apical translocation of the mucogingival line, loss of vestibule and keratinized mucosa (KM), which is usually located in a palatal/lingual position in relation to the submerged implants. Limitation of the mobility of the lip can also result.

In addition there is often a lack of soft tissue thickness. In these clinical situations, there is a clear indication for a mucogingival surgical procedure that increases the amount of keratinized tissue and also the thickness of soft tissues.

The selection of the type of soft tissue graft as well as the surgical techniques including the Modified Apically Positioned Flap (MAPF), open healing connective tissue grafting as well as soft tissue micro grafts will be discussed in details.

Surgical videos will support the understanding of these demanding surgical procedures.

The protocol of the preservation of the regenerated ridge and the development of papillary architecture in between implants after vertical ridge augmentation will be also discussed.