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| **Name:** |
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| 8B-3 |
| **Pathology Question:** |
| What are the clinical indications for grafting with a membrane? |
| **Report:** |
| Soft tissue grafts are used to replace soft tissue defects in the oral cavity. Such oral defects include tooth related (e.g. gingival recessions) and non-tooth related defects (e.g. defects caused by tumor resection, trauma, chronic infection). In clinical applications, soft tissue engineering is used for periodontal peri-implant reconstruction, maxillofacial reconstructive surgery, and to reduce recession among other things.  A current approach for soft tissue engineering is the use of autologous grafts. Per Dr.Tayebi’s Soft, Hard & Interfacial Tissue Engineering presentation, autologous grafts from the oral cavity are preferred as they have the same consistency, color and keratinization patterns. This is to avoid such problems as growth of hair in the oral cavity. However, some limitations with oral cavity autologous grafts is their limited availability and small size. Overall, using the patient’s own tissue and transplanting it is the preferred method. The question is what are the benefits of using these grafts.  Per Renzo et al., studies suggest that having keratinized tissue of less than 2mm thickness poses a risk for inflammation, peri-implant adverse soft tissue and hard tissue effects, and increased plaque index among other things. Therefore, an indication for soft tissue grafting would be having a keratinized width < 2mm. Another indication in placing a soft tissue graft is to prevent the loss of bone and prevent bleeding on probing per a systematic review by the Clinical Oral Implants Research |
| **References:** |
| Bassetti, Renzo G. et al. “Soft tissue augmentation around osseointegrated and uncovered dental implants: a systematic review” *Clin Oral Invest.* Vol *21, 53–70 (2017). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00784-016-2007-9*  Tayebi, Lobat. “Soft, Hard & Interfacial Tissue Engineering” DEIN 7121, Oral Biology, 24 February 2020 and 2 March 2020, Marquette School of Dentistry. Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation.  Thoma, Daniel S. et al. “Effects of soft tissue augmentation procedures on peri-implant health or disease: A systematic review and meta-analysis” *Clin Oral Implants Res.* Vol 29, 32-49 (2018). https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/clr.13114 |