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Pathology Question:

What can cause the loss of the interdental papilla following implant placement? And what can be done to deter this?

Report:

The interdental papilla are the triangular shaped points of gum in between teeth. On occasion where a patient is receiving dental treatment that includes implants these are areas that are susceptible to trauma and receding. Gum tissue is normally surrounding the alveolar bone and crest and when the bone structure is altered the gum changes too. Therefore during an implant, when the bone is altered the gum has a tendency to recede. The thinner the facial bone wall is, the higher the chance of the gum receding or also becoming thin. Thin or receded gums will have a negative effect on the long-term survival of the implant and also show undesirable traits such as loss of volume, color alteration, and peri-implant recession. These are less than esthetic and the papilla can also lose functional components if this tissue is lost.

It is very hard to rebuild interdental papillae after they have receded, so Bone Grafts and Soft Tissue Grafts/Augmentation are indicated at the time of the implant to preserve tissue stability. Placing a bone graft into the area surrounding the dental implant will help to keep the volume of the bone at an optimal level or amount and this in turn during healing will encourage the gums to stay at a healthy width and height. Soft tissue grafting is also indicated as this will help replenish any traumatized tissue in the area. Clinical Cases show that autogenous soft tissue grafts are effective to prevent tissue receding and also to help the area to heal appropriately. In addition to these factors, basic surgical considerations should also be remembered and conservative, minimally invasive technique should be used.

References:

Electronic Document Format(ISO)
FRIZZERA, Fausto et al. Treatment of peri-implant soft tissue defects: a narrative review. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2019, vol.33, suppl.1 [cited 2020-09-29], e073. Available from: <http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1806-83242019000200603&lng=en&nrm=iso>. Epub Sep 30, 2019. ISSN 1807-3107. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1807-3107bor-2019.vol33.0073.