

PERSPECTIVES IN PERIODONTICS

This case report is meant to give you the perspective we have on a daily basis. As a periodontal office, we have a unique opportunity to see beneath the gingival tissues. It is both interesting and alarming to see the destructive nature of periodontal disease.

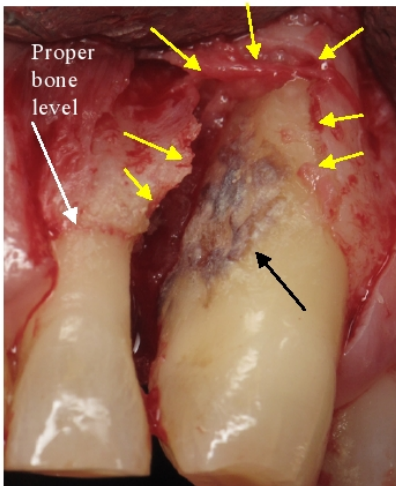


Pre-treatment photograph and radiograph of tooth #11 are to the left. The pre-treatment radiograph of tooth #11 shows a severe vertical bone defect along the mesial.

The six month post treatment radiograph is to the right reveals amazing regeneration of the alveolar bone. **This has improved the prognosis for tooth preservation.**



SURGICAL SEQUENCE: Guided Tissue Regeneration to preserve the tooth.



Flap elevation reveals the incredible ravages of periodontal disease. **The yellow arrows point to the bone loss. The black arrow points to the calculus that was buried sub-gingivally.** The patient reports a history of root planning that could not reach the calculus.



Flap reflection allows for the best access for the removal of the calculus. Also seen is the bone loss that extended 3/4 of the way down the root surface.



A bone graft was placed into the defect. Following this, a resorbable barrier membrane was placed and the tissue sutured to obtain primary closure.

CONCLUSION: The continued presence of calculus can lead to the loss of the teeth. Flap elevation allows access to the calculus for its removal. Guided tissue regeneration allows for replacement of the periodontal attachment structures and thereby tooth preservation.

This case report is provided by **PERIODONTICS OF THE DESERT: Peter Warshawsky, D.D.S. and Eric Driver D.D.S.;** Board Certified Periodontists. It is meant as a way of sharing current periodontal information with the dental community. Questions and comments are welcomed by calling 674-4410.* All cases presented are actual patients of Drs. Warshawsky or Driver.