

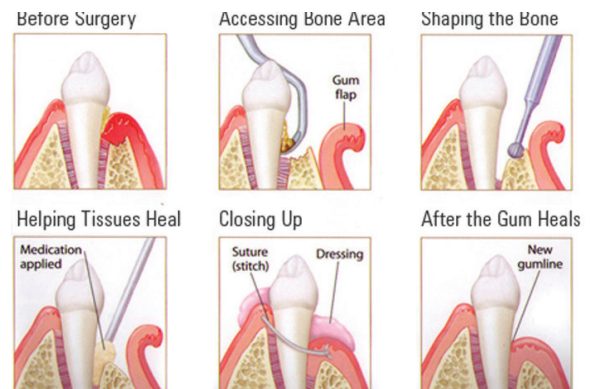
SURGICAL PERIODONTAL THERAPY

Surgical periodontal therapy is the process of removing the disease-causing bacteria associated with the deeper periodontal pockets that cause bone loss around the teeth. The surgical recontouring of the gum and bone decreases the risk of infection that is linked to periodontal disease.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What are the benefits to me of surgical periodontal therapy?**

- Removal of plaque and tartar in previously inaccessible areas.
- Elimination of hard-to-maintain periodontal pockets, allowing me better access for cleaning.
- The slow down or even remission of the progression of my periodontal disease. This will depend on other risk factors, including daily maintenance and follow through.



2. **What are the risks involved in my having surgical periodontal therapy?**

- My gums will be tender for a period of time.
- There will be an increase in sensitivity of my teeth for a period of time.
- The shrinkage of the gums may result in my teeth looking longer, with increased spaces between my teeth, both potentially contributing to a less aesthetic appearance.
- All surgical procedures carry a small risk of infection.



Before surgery

3. **What materials will be used in my surgical periodontal therapy?**

- Local anesthetic is used in most surgical procedures.
- Additional materials may include ultrasonic instruments, laser therapy and antibacterial irrigation.
- Antibiotics and mouth rinses are often used after surgery during the healing process.



After surgery

4. **Will I have any limitations after surgical periodontal therapy?**

- Avoidance of hard tooth brushes or other dental hygiene aids that may irritate the surgical site.
- I should do my best not to chew or put forces on the surgical site. As with any wound healing, it is better not to disturb things as fewer complications will occur.

5. **What are my alternatives to surgical periodontal therapy?**

- No treatment of the existing periodontal disease.
- Non-surgical periodontal therapy. However, this often does not replace surgical periodontal therapy and by not fully treating my periodontal disease by using appropriate periodontal therapies, I am at risk of further periodontal infection and ultimately tooth loss.