R-22. Short-term and Long-term Evaluation of Curtain Flap Procedure and Papillar Preservation Technique for Esthetic Improvement

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Esthetic considerations pose therapeutic dilemmas in the selection of treatment modalities for periodontal pockets in the anterior regions. For anterior esthetics, the ultimate goal of treatment in the surgical procedures is to minimize the recession and preserve the papilla. This study is designed to compare the efficacy of Papillar Preservation Technique and Curtain Flap Procedure by short-term(6 months) and long-term(1 year) observation, which were designed to improve esthetic outcome after surgical treatment. 17 patients were selected for the study. All patients exhibited periodontal pockets of ≥5mm at the maxillary anterior teeth. Papillar height(incisal edge~papillar tip) and interdental soft tissue area between central incisors were measured. Initial periodontal therapy was performed and reevaluation was done 4-6 weeks later. Papillar Preservation Technique was used whenever indicated. In areas where a Papillar Preservation Technique could not be applicable, Curtain Flap Procedure was used as the alternative. All measurements were taken and recorded 6months and 1 year following surgery. The recession of papillar height and reduction of interdental soft tissue area were significantly smaller(p(0.05) in Papillar Preservation Group than Curtain Technique Group by the student t-test by short-term evaluation. However, the recession of papillar height and reduction of interdental soft tissue area were not statistically significant in Papillar Preservation Group and Curtain Technique Group by the student t-test by long-term evaluation. Both Papillar Preservation Technique and Curtain Flap Procedure were effective in preserving interdental papillary height and interdental soft tissue area, but the former demonstrated lower tendency to lose papillary height and soft tissue area and better esthetic outcome during the 6 months of observation. However, the difference became minimal with time. Curtain Flap Procedure has an advantage in that it can be applied where the Papillar Preservation Technique is not the method of choice.