Sutures and Periodontal Dressings

Presented by:
Dr. Amelia Granberry

Sutures

- **Purpose**
  - Close wounds
  - Stabilize position of soft tissues during initial healing
- **Documentation**
  - Number of sutures placed
  - Assures correct # removed
  - Suture size
    - 3-0, 4-0, 5-0
    - 3-0 is the largest, 5-0 is the smallest

Suture Techniques

- **Continuous Loop Suture.** Note that the suture is looped around each of the cervical areas of the teeth and passed through the tissues associated with each interdental area, but that

Material Used

- **Non-resorbable**
  - Does not dissolve in body fluids
  - Removed by clinician
- **Resorbable**
  - Dissolves slowly in body fluids
  - Gut

Continuous Loop Suture

- Continuous loop suture has been placed on the segment of teeth in maxillary arch. Note that the only knot visible is associated with the most distal tooth.
Suture Removal

- Sutures should be removed when loose in tissues
  - Usually 1 week post-op
  - NEVER leave in place more than 2 weeks
    - Can become irritant if left too long
- Remnant of resorbable sutures removed to avoid inflammation

Suture Removal Guidelines

- Grasp knot with cotton pliers
- Cut material near knot
- Gently pull through the tissue
- Usually not painful for patient

Periodontal Dressing (cont.)

- Optional dressing placed over sutures or open wound
- Protects tissues from oral environment
- Material
  - Paste (mixed from 2 tubes)
  - Light-cured gel
- Use least amount as possible
  - Just enough to cover wound
  - No dressing on Occlusal surfaces
- Don’t trap sutures in dressing
- If suture caught—may need to loosen dressing then cut suture for removal

Periodontal Dressing

- Dressing is pressed into the interdental spaces with gentle finger pressure on the facial.
- Dressing is looped around the most distal tooth and pressed into the interdental spaces on the palatal.
- Gentle finger pressure is continued to join the dressing interdentally on the facial and on the palatal aspects.
- Dressing can be bridged across edentulous areas.
- Dressing amount should be minimal to avoid contact of the dressing with the teeth in the opposite arch.