

HEALING AFTER PERIODONTAL SURGERY

- A REVIEW

A LIBRARY DISSERTATION

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Injury interrupts normal tissue relationships as well as tissue continuity³⁴. Any break in the continuity of the oral mucosa must be followed by healing to prevent the egress of irritants into the underlying tissues¹². When tissue is injured unintentionally or by the blade of the surgeon, a complex series of events follows the injury: inflammation, clotting, mobilization of cells, formation of granulation tissue, and repair and remodelling. The process by which tissues are restored to an anatomic and physiologic arrangement is known as healing. For healing to take place, acute inflammation must first establish itself at a wound site. Inflammation is a defense mechanism serving to prepare the injured site for its eventual repair.²⁸ The objective of the healing process is to restore disrupted or dead tissue to its normal state.³⁴

The healing of wounds is one of the most interesting of the many phenomena that characterize the living organism. The ability of damaged tissue to repair itself is a response of life itself, and within this very process may lie the final understanding of nature. Wound healing, therefore comprises a fundamental biological activity that involves both regeneration and replacement activities and must be considered one of the primary survival mechanisms from birth onward.⁴

Gingival and periodontal diseases, in their various forms, have afflicted humans since the dawn of history and studies have indicated that destructive