GUIDED TISSUE REGENERATION

- A REVIEW

LIBRARY DISSERTATION

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Teeth are supported primarily by the attachment of periodontal ligament to cementum on one side and alveolar bone on the other. During the destructive periods of periodontitis the connective tissue attachment of the tooth to the bone is reduced and the alveolar bone is resorbed. It has long been an objective of periodontal treatment to reverse this process and to replace these missing tissues[54]. The ultimate goal of periodontal therapy hence, has not only been the arrest of progressive periodontal disease,but also the restitution of those parts of the supporting apparatus which are destroyed by it. Conventional periodontal treatment does not achieve this aim, however,and is limited to arresting the progress of the disease, thus preventing further loss of support. This can generally be achieved by planing the root surface, with or without surgical access,having previously established a high level of supragingival plaque control.

A number of therapeutic procedures, including root surface conditioning and bone grafting have aimed at the regeneration of lost supporting tissues comprising of new alveolar bone, cementum and periodontal ligament. However, periodontal pockets normally heal by formation of a long junctional epithelium and little periodontal regeneration is generally seen following the use of traditional methods of periodontal treatment.