

— THE —
**GUM
GRAFTING
BOOK**

A VISUAL JOURNEY TO HEALTHY GUMS

MICHAEL SONICK, DMD • RUI MA, DMD



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Gingival (gum) recession occurs when the bone around the teeth thins out and is partially lost. Gum tissue covers the bone. When the bone “wears” away, recession can occur. The result is tooth exposure. This may cause increased sensitivity to sweets and to cold. Because gum recession happens slowly, many people do not realize it is happening to them.

Causes of gum recession may include genetics, overzealous tooth brushing, clenching and grinding, periodontal disease, orthodontic tooth movement, use of chewing tobacco, decay, and failing dentistry.

A gum graft is a type of minor dental surgery performed in the office to correct the effects of gum recession. Many different techniques exist for the treatment of recession and vary upon each individual situation.

Left untreated, gum recession is progressive and could even lead to tooth loss.

We strive to educate you so that you may choose the correct treatment for yourself. Our goal is to improve the quality of your dentition, overall medical health and to restore your smile. We want everybody to smile with confidence to feel good about themselves.





To improve the quality of our patients lives, through education, treatment and motivation in a comfortable, caring and friendly environment.



Before

Gum recession and tooth wear caused by overzealous tooth brushing.



Gum reconstruction achieved with a subepithelial connective tissue graft.



Severe recession of the lower canine and adjacent teeth was the result of hard tooth brushing and braces.



Gingival grafting was performed on the canine and adjacent teeth. Even upon close inspection, it is impossible to see where the surgery was performed.



Gingival recession on the lower front teeth is quite common following braces. The result was a lack of healthy gum tissue. Note the redness of the tissue prior to grafting.



Following gingival grafting the tissues were restored to health and function. The gum graft is imperceptible from the surrounding tissue.



Recession secondary to fillings close to the gum line in a 70 year old dentist.



Fillings were removed and the patient's own tissue was able to be reattached to the roots of the teeth, resulting in a healthier looking smile.



Before



Orthodontic therapy without bone grafting led to significant recession in this 17 year old male.

Today, it is suggested that the bone be evaluated and regenerated prior to orthodontic treatment.

After



Full mouth gingival grafting led to complete root coverage and restoration of the dentition.





This 42 year old female is missing her two upper left bicuspids. She was restored with a fixed bridge from her canine to her molar. The result was gum recession and a concavity where the teeth used to be.



Following the placement of two implants and gingival grafting of her canine, it is hard to tell where the teeth are and where the single tooth implants are. She was ecstatic with the result.



Gum recession was the result of very thin bone around this patient's back teeth. Tooth wear occurred leading to darkening of the roots.



After

Gum grafting restored the tissues to health. Esthetics was also achieved by covering the discolored roots.



Malposition of the teeth and aggressive tooth brushing led to recession in this 42 year old attorney.



Using a tunnel procedure the roots were able to be covered.



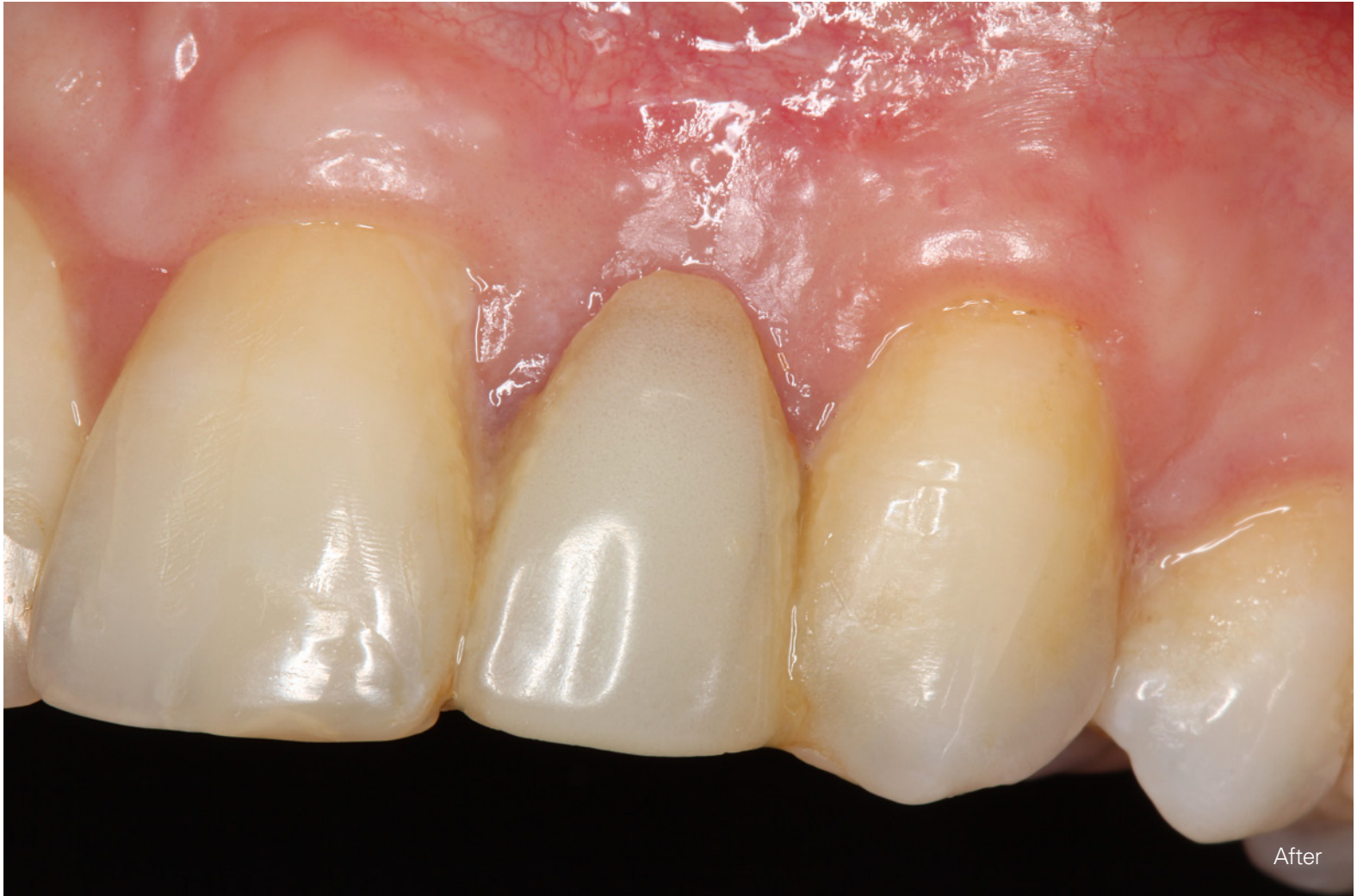
Recession on the upper canine and adjacent teeth led to cold sensitivity, a common complaint amongst patients with recession.



In one procedure, a gingival graft thickened the tissue, improved health, decreased the potential for further recession, improved esthetics and eliminated sensitivity.



A 28 year old businesswoman flew in from Moscow to address her severe gingival recession. She was sensitive and extremely bothered by the esthetics.



After

Sensitivity was eliminated and esthetics were improved following grafting.



The lower anterior teeth developed periodontal disease and lost bone resulting in recession of the gums and flaring of the teeth.



Oral hygiene instructions and scaling were performed first. Gum grafting successfully restored the patient to health.



Recession and inflammation secondary to periodontal disease.



Return to health following gum grafting.



Full mouth recession was present in this 60 year old female. Over 50% of all adults and 90% of patients over 65 experience some recession.



The use of donor tissue eliminated the need to harvest tissue from the palate. The graft led to complete root coverage and is indistinguishable from the patients surrounding tissue.



Esthetic disfiguring recession is present on all six upper front teeth.



Using a modification of the pinhole technique with tissue allograft, natural looking root coverage is possible.



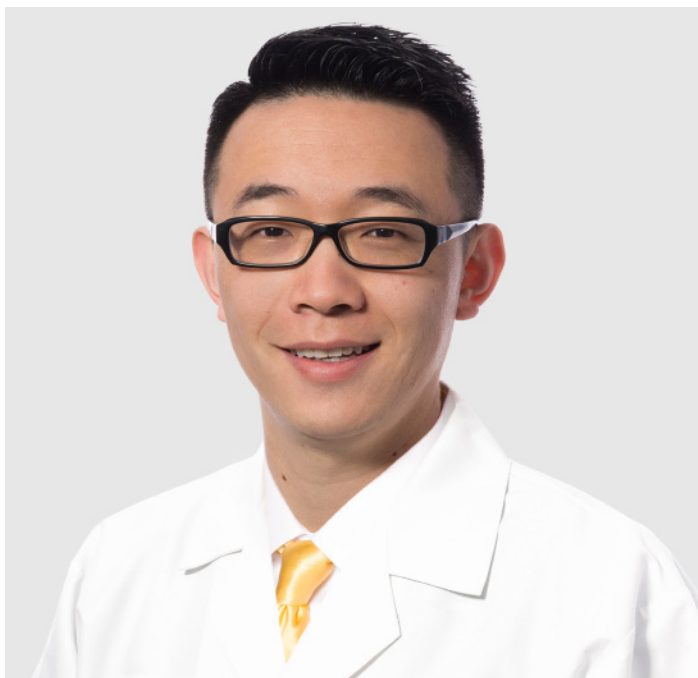
Michael Sonick, DMD

Michael Sonick, DMD, is an internationally known, highly regarded authority in the field of dental Implantology and Periodontology. He completed his undergraduate degree at Colgate University. He received his DMD at University of Connecticut School of Medicine and his certificate in Periodontology at Emory University. He received his implant training at Harvard University as well as the Branemark Clinic in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Dr. Sonick is member of the following organizations:



A full-time practicing periodontist in Fairfield, Connecticut, he is also a frequent guest lecturer in the international program at New York University School of Dentistry and the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He lectures worldwide on the subject of aesthetic implants, periodontal plastic surgery and guided bone regeneration and comprehensive treatment planning. He is the co-editor of the multi-language textbook, Implant Site Development, which has been translated into both Spanish and Chinese. He serves on the editorial boards of numerous journals including the Compendium of Continuing Education and the Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry, and has published numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals. He is a member of the Leading Dental Centers of the World, a Master in DSD (Digital Smile Design) and Seattle Study Club Speaker. He is a Diplomate of the International Congress of Oral Implantology. The General Dental Practice Residents at Yale New Haven Hospital awarded Dr. Michael Sonick the honor of "Teacher of the Year."



Rui "Ray" Ma, DMD

Rui Ma, DMD is an experienced periodontal and dental implant surgeon who is very dedicated to his profession. He utilizes the most current technology and most up to date innovations in providing care to his patients. A fourth generation dentist raised in his family's private practice, Dr. Ma excelled in his education achieving his Doctor of Dental medicine (D.M.D) from Tufts University in Boston. Previously educated at State University of New York in Albany, he received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with Summa Cum Laude and graduated as class Valedictorian. Dr Ma completed his post-doctoral training in periodontics at Stony Brook University, in New York, where he was bestowed the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Periodontology.

Dr. Ma is member of the following organizations:



Dr. Ma currently is a member as well as co-director of the prestigious Fairfield County Dental Club, the premier continuing education facility for dentists in Connecticut. He also serves as Director of the Fairfield County Hygiene Club providing dental hygienists an opportunity to advance their clinical skills and knowledge.

He provides treatment in a knowledgeable, caring, comfortable, and most importantly pain free setting.

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Fairfield County Implants & Periodontics
Dr. Michael Sonick, Dr. Rui Ma & Associates
Creating Beautiful Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime



1047 Old post Road, Fairfield CT 06824
203-254-2006 - office@sonickdmd.com

www.sonickdmd.com