Save the Teeth or Extract and Place Implants

Pamela Kay McClain, D.D.S.

Although dental implants have expanded treatment options for patients, retention of the natural dentition, when feasible, remains an ideal goal in dentistry. Many therapeutic modalities in periodontics have demonstrated success in saving teeth. Among those is periodontal regenerative therapy. Currently, several techniques fulfill the histologic and clinical criteria for periodontal regeneration in selective osseous defects. While individual therapies have demonstrated success in specific intrabony defects, combination therapies have shown successful outcomes in more complex lesions. The rationale of combination therapy is based on enhancing the advantages and minimizing the limitations of individual regenerative therapies. Despite our advances in periodontal therapy there are times when the best course of action is to extract the tooth and place an implant. This course will review the current state of the art of periodontal regenerative therapy using various techniques and materials in selective osseous defects as well as discuss its limitations and consideration for placing implants.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this presentation, participants should be able to:
1. Identify the techniques/materials that demonstrate regeneration
2. List the osseous defects that are most predictable in achieving periodontal regeneration
3. Discuss the role of regenerative therapy in the management of various osseous defects