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# **Review Article** Long term efficacy of root coverage techniques

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## ABSTRACT

Gingival recession is a dramatic soft tissue finding in teeth affected by periodontal disease and remains one of the most common aesthetic concerns associated with periodontal tissue. The etiology of the condition is multifactorial but is commonly associated with alveolar morphology, tooth brushing, mechanical trauma and periodontal disease. With greater understanding of the dynamics of healing along with an awareness of aesthetics various periodontal procedures have been introduced to deal with problems of gingival recession. The long-term stability of the outcomes obtained with the surgical treatment of single and multiple gingival recessions has been evaluated in a few studies. Of the vast repertoire of mucogingival procedures for gingival recession management, long term studies of more than 5 years is present only for coronally advanced flap with or without connective tissue grafts. There are many other novel techniques in literature with little or no evidence to prove its long term efficacy. Various studies published during the last 30 years were identified through a search of the PubMed/Medline, Science Direct and Cochrane Library databases. "Follow up", "root coverage", root coverage procedures, root coverage techniques were the key words used for the search. In this review we have grouped the efficacy of various root coverage techniques based on their short and long term follow up. The review emphasises the value of meticulous follow up in order to validate efficacy of root coverage techniques. It also discusses the factors responsible for stability of results.

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## 1. Introduction

Gingival recession (GR) remains one of the most common aesthetic concerns associated with periodontal tissue.<sup>1</sup> A denuded root surface frequently results from an interplay between the predisposing and triggering factors.<sup>2</sup>

When recession is untreated it is associated with thermal and tactile sensitivity, compromise in aesthetics, increased tendency for formation of root carries, continuous marginal bone loss eventually leading to tooth loss.<sup>3</sup> With greater understanding of the dynamics of healing along with an increased awareness of aesthetics various periodontal procedures have been introduced to deal with problems of gingival recession.<sup>4</sup> The selection of treatment modality depends on various tooth and soft tissue related factors.

The predictability of treatment depends upon the type and severity of the recession.<sup>5</sup>

A number of recent systematic reviews have analysed multiple therapeutic approaches to gingival recession defects, including coronally advanced flap (CAF) alone and in combination with Sub epithelial connective tissue graft (SCTG), guided tissue regeneration(GTR), enamel matrix derivative (EMD), and acellular dermal matrix (ADM).<sup>6</sup> Irrespective of the surgical approach, the ultimate goal of recession treatment technique is to achieve an optimal integration of the covering tissue with the adjacent soft tissue for a longer time period.<sup>7</sup> The stability of any technique used for root coverage is determined by long term follow up. Long term stability of gingival recession management is based on numerous factors like proper elimination of aetiology, the right choice of technique, expertise of clinician, standard of oral hygiene and patient maintenance by patient.<sup>8</sup>

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Though general literature evidence for root coverage procedures are abundantly available, only few vouch for the long term stability of the results. This article aims in providing an overview of various techniques available for the treatment of gingival recession and particularly probes into the literature reporting long term stability of the results.

Various studies published during the last 30 years and written in English were identified through a search of the PubMed/Medline, Science Direct and Cochrane Library databases. "Follow up", "root coverage", "root coverage procedures", "root coverage techniques" were the key words used for the search.

A total of 200 Articles were retrieved form the search results. Excluding the cross references a total of 38 articles were included in the review. Articles were further grouped based on the techniques and analysed.

A total of 3 articles for FGG, 10 articles for CAF, 2 articles for SCTG, 13 articles for CAF + CTG, 6 articles for CAF along with other additional biomaterials, 2 articles for CTG along with other additional biomaterials and 2 articles for pedicle grafts were obtained with a long term follow up.

#### 2. Discussion

#### 2.1. Coronally Advanced flap

This technique was described first by Bernimoulin et al which involve's the coronal repositioning of the gingival tissue which lies apical to the recession defect.<sup>9</sup> This technique along with Subepithelial connective tissue graft is considered the gold standard technique for recession coverage. Based on the biotype of the gingiva and the presence of keratinized tissue it can either be carried out as a single stage surgery or as a two stage surgery in combination with free gingival grafts to increase the width of attached gingiva.<sup>10</sup>

The coronally advanced flap provides great esthetic results, because of the match of colour, texture and thickness blends with the gingiva in-situ. It is also of great reliability for the treatment of Millers Class I and II gingival recession. It achieves a mean root coverage of 55-99% and a complete root coverage of 24-95% of sites.<sup>11</sup> Various modifications and combinations with different materials along with CAF is used for better results

The long term efficacy over a time period of more than 5 years of coronally advanced flap were analysed by various authors. Zuchelli et al<sup>12</sup> in 2005, stated that CAF produced an increased in keratinized tissue in 5 years. Leknes et al<sup>13</sup> in 2005, proposed that CAF showed significant gain in root coverage and improvement in clinical parameters irrespective of the placement of biodegradable membrane over a period of 6 years. DeSanctis M<sup>14</sup> in 2007 concluded that a modified form of CAF was effective in treating isolated recession over a 3 year period. Nickles.K<sup>15</sup> et al in 2010 & Pini Prato<sup>16</sup> in 2011 also stated that CAF proved

to be an effective technique for obtaining root coverage in comparison with GTR and various other techniques over a period of more than 8 years. Michel. K.Mcguire<sup>6</sup> et al in 2012 concluded that CAF in combination with EMD and CTG resulted in better esthetic results in 10 years, and in 2014<sup>17</sup> stated that CAF along with CTG showed reduction in recession defect in 5 years. Buti J<sup>18</sup> et al in 2013 concluded that CAF with CTG ranked highest in effectiveness for recession reduction and CAL gain. Shula et al<sup>19</sup> and Karin Jespen<sup>20</sup> et al in 2017 stated that CAF+CTG and CAF + CMX provided better root coverage in 5 years and 3 years respectively. Improvement's in recession depth was noted over a period of 20 years by Pini Prato<sup>21</sup> in 2018 when treated with CAF. (Table 1)(Table 2)

#### 2.2. Connective tissue graft

The subepithelial connective tissue graft described by Langer & Langer in 1985,<sup>22</sup> is a bilaminar procedure designed to maximise the gingival & supra periosteal blood supply. It was provide as an alternative for free gingival grafts since it provided with great esthetic results, lower morbidity of donor site due to its healing by primary intention.

Along with root coverage it also helps in increasing the thickness of gingival tissue. Various combinations and modifications of connective tissue graft like the usage of an envelope or tunnel flap or the use of epithelial collar along with CTG has also been used to provide better results.<sup>23</sup> A mean root coverage of 97% was reported by Harris. J. Randal in 1992 with the use of CTG.<sup>24</sup>

Various authors such as Rossberg<sup>25</sup> et al n 2008 reported that with the use of CTG a recession in reduction depth was observed over a time period of 22 years, whereas over a span of 5 years, it was reported that CAF + CTG showed better root coverage in comparison with CAF alone by Pini Prato<sup>26</sup> et al in 2010. The gingival width was found to be stable with CTG in comparison with ADM when analysed by Moslemi<sup>27</sup> in 2011 & CTG+CAF was found to be superior in the treatment of Gingival recession by Davor Kuis<sup>28</sup> in 2013 in 5 years. Zuchelli<sup>29</sup> and Cairo<sup>30</sup> et al in 2014 & 2015 respectively stated that CAF +CTG showed long term better results in comparison with CAF alone. Good improvement in aesthetics and stability over 15 years was obtained with CAF and SCTG as reported by Luca Francetti<sup>31</sup> in 2018. Rasperini<sup>32</sup> et al in 2019 stated that the marginal stability of single maxillary recessions was improved with CAF + CTG in 9 years. Knut Adam<sup>33</sup> in 2019 reported that there was increase in keratinized tissue in gingival recession when treated with CTG+EMD in 18 years. Douglas H<sup>34</sup> in 2019 also reported that along with ADM, CTG resulted in recession depth reduction and increase in keratinized gingiva width in 15 years (Table 1).

Follow up duration	Procedure	Author	Year	Type of study	Number of cases	Parameters measured	Clinical effectiveness
25 years	FGG	Agudio <sup>35</sup> 41 et al	2017	Longitudinal study	74 patients (182 sites)	Recession depth Probing depth Width of keratinized tissue Recession +Keratinized Tissue	Reduced recession depth Keratinized tissue contraction Improved aesthetics
22 years	CAF+CTG	Rossberg M <sup>26</sup> et al	2008	Case series	20 cases (39 sites	Recession depth Complete root coverage Patient satisfaction	82% complete root coverage Reduced recession depth Negative influence of baseline recession height Positive influence of location of recession
20 years	CAFvs CAF+CTG	Pini Prato <sup>21</sup> et al	2018	Longitudinal study	94 patients (97 sites)	Recession depth Probing depth Width of keratinized tissue	Good patient satisfaction Improvements in recession depth Decrease in mean root coverage
18 years	CTG+EMD	Knut Adam <sup>33</sup> et al	2019	Longitudinal study	16 patients (25 sites)	Complete root coverage Recession depth PPD CAL Width of keratinized tissue	19 sites with CRC Reduced RD,PPD and CAL Increased wKT
15 years	CAF+SCTG	Luca Franceti <sup>32</sup> et al	2018	Case report	1 patient (1 site)	Recession depth	Resolution of gingival recession Improved aesthetics
15 years	CTG+ADM	Douglas H <sup>36</sup> et al	2019	Case report	1 patient (1 site)	Recession depth PPD Width of keratinized tissue	Reduced PPD and recession depth Increased width of keratinized tissue
14 years	CAF vs Root planning & polishing	Pini Prato et al <sup>37</sup>	2011	Randomized split mouth trial	10 patients (Bilateral recession)	Recession depth	Improvements in recession depth

Table 1: Compilation	n ofvarious recession c	overage techniques ba	ased on follow up peri-	od ( $\geq 5$ years)	and clinical effectiveness
		0		<u> </u>	

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Table 1 continued									
10 years	CAF+ EMD Vs CAF+SCTG	Michael .K. Mcguire <sup>6</sup> et al	2012	Split mouth RCT	17 Patients	Gigival recession depth Probing depth CAL Width of KT Percentage of root coverage Colour, texture, contour of treated sites Dentinal hypersensitivity	Increased PD Increased wKT in EMD EMD-Marginal tissue contour was similar to adjacent teeth SCTG- Higher than adjacent teeth Similar aesthetic outcomes in both groups		
10 years	Periosteal pedicle graft	Ajay Mahajan <sup>38</sup> et al	2018	Sytematic review	17 publications	51 5	Minimal side effects		
10 years	CAF+CTG vs CAF+GTR	Nickles.K <sup>15</sup> et al	2010	RCT	15 patients	Root coverage Recession depth	CTG Stability of root coverage Reduction of recession depth		
9 years	CAF+CTG vs CAF	Rasperini Giulio <sup>7</sup> et al	2018	RCT	25 recessions	recession depth Keratinized tissue width Dentinal hypersensitivity	CTG Increased keratinized tissue Both techniques- Stability over time		
8 years	CAF+CTG	Pini Prato et al <sup>16</sup>	2011	Longitudinal study	60 patients	Root coverage Recession reduction Amount of keratinized tissue	Recession relapse Reduction of Kertainized tissue		
6 years	CAF vs CAF + Biodegradble membrane	Leknes et al <sup>13</sup>	2005	RCT	20 patients (20 sites- CAF) (20 sites CAF+biodegradabl membrane)	Apical extent of recession Width of defect at CEJ eWidth of Keratinized tissue CAL PPD	CAF alone 10 sites exhibit complete root coverage Improvement in clinical parameters		
6 years	LPF	AM Norudeen <sup>39</sup> Et al	2013	Case report	1 site (46)	CAL Width of attached gingiva	Gain in CAL Increased width of attached gingiva		
5 years	CAF+SCTG Vs CAF+ADM	Shula Zuleika <sup>19</sup>	2017	RCT	11 sites- SCTG 11 sites-ADM	Gingival recession Width of attached gingiva	SCTG was better than ADM		
						CAL			

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Table 1 continued								
5 years	CAF	Zuchelli et	2005	Experimental	22 patients	Height of keratinized	Increased keratinized tissue	
		al <sup>12</sup>		study	(73  sites)	tissue	Increase in recession depth	
						Recession depth	Successful	
_	G 1 101	<b>.</b>	1001	· · · · ·		<b>N</b> 11 1 1	root coverage	
5 years	Surgical/Non	Lindhe	1984	Longitudinal	15 patients	Probing depth	Oral hygiene has influence on long term	
	~	et al		study		CAL	results	
	Surgical					Gingival conditions	Sites with initial pocket depth more than	
_	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	20			~ .	Oral hygiene	3mm also responded well	
5 years	CAF+CTG	Zuchelli <sup>29</sup> et	2014	RCT	Gl-	Recession height	CAF+CTG	
		al			(25)CAF+CTG	Complete root coverage	Greater recession reduction	
					G2-CAF (25)	Width of attached gingiva	Increased width of attached gingiva	
_	~	28					Complete root coverage	
5 years	CAF	Davor Kuis <sup>28</sup>	2013	RCT	37 patients	Recession length	CAF+CTG	
	VS				(114 sites)	Keratinized tissue width	Better Recession length reduction, CRC	
	CAF+CIG	et al				Complete root coverage	&PRC	
						Percentage of root coverage	Increased Keratinized tissue width	
5 years	CAF+	McGuire	2014	Split mouth	G1- CAF+	Recession depth	CAF+PGF	
	Platelet	et al <sup>17</sup>		RCT	Growth factor(10	Probing depth	Improved recession	
	derived				pts)	CAL	Percentage of root coverage	
	growth factor				G2- CAF + CTG	Height of keratinized	Increased Keratinized tissue height	
					(10pts)	tissue	Both groups	
	Vs					Percentage of root	100% root coverage	
	CAF+CTG					coverage	CAL changes	
5 years	FGG	Jacques	1980	Observational	10 patients	Recession length	Increase in attached gingiva	
		Matter <sup>40</sup> et al		study		Width of exposed root surface	Initial extension of recession by 1mm	
5 years	CAF	Pini prato <sup>26</sup>	2010	Longitudinal	13 patients	Recession depth	CAF+CTG resulted in better results than	
•	VS	et al		study	(49 sites –CAF	Probing depth	CAF	
	CAF+CTG			•	44-CAF+CTG)	CAL		
5 years	ADMA	Moslemi <sup>27</sup>	2011	Split mouth	16 patients	Probing depth	Improvement in clinical parameters in	
-	VS	et al		RCT	-	Recession depth	both the groups	
	SCTG					Recession width	Gingival width did not increase in	
						Gingival width	ADMA group	
							More relapse observed in patients with	
							horizontal tooth brushing habit	

## 2.3. Free Gingival Graft

Free gingival graft was first described by Bjorn in 1963.<sup>36</sup> It was initially used as a means to increase the width of attached gingiva and increase the vestibular depth, and was later used for root coverage. It can be used in treating root coverage either as one stage or two stage procedure where the free gingival graft is placed apical to the recession and later, post healing a pedicle flap was raised to cover the tooth.<sup>23</sup> Pagliaro<sup>41</sup> et al stated that the mean root coverage achieved by free gingival graft varies between 9-87% and the complete root coverage varies between 9-72% sites. The success of these grafts are influenced by various factors like thickness and immobilization of the graft, adequate blood supply from adjacent sites and smoking habits of the patient. Despite of various advantages of the technique like its simple technique and ability to increase the width of attached gingiva, various disadvantages of the technique such as increased discomfort, colour mismatch and large donor site wound are also evident.<sup>42</sup>

Ratietshack<sup>43</sup> in 1979 stated that FGG along with vestibuloplasty, resulted in root coverage without recurrence of recession along with gain in vestibular depth in 4 years. 70% root coverage was obtained in patients with a recession depth less than 3 mm over a span of 5 years as stated by Jacques Matter<sup>40</sup> in 1980. Agudio<sup>35</sup> et al in 2017 reported that in 25 years the treatment of gingival recession with FGG promoted favourable keratinized tissue and improved the marginal tissue recession.(Table 1 )

## 2.4. Rotational Pedicle Grafts

Pedicle grafts was the periodontal plastic surgery proposed in 1956. The pedicle graft retains its blood supply through its attachment to the base and facilitating revascularisation with the recipient site. Pedicle grafts provide long term aesthetic results in the presence of adequate width of attached gingiva. Pedicle flaps are contraindicated in sites with shallow vestibule, less width of keratinized tissue and with high frenal attachment.<sup>23</sup>

The Laterally positioned flap is the first pedicle flap used in 1956, introduced by Grupe and Warren. Various modifications of the original technique were given by several authors to overcome recession in adjacent tooth. The success rate of lateral pedicle graft is evaluated to be 69-72% by Zuchelli. $G^{50}$  in 2004.

One of the modifications of laterally positioned flap to overcome its limitations is the Double papilla flap by Cohen and Ross. It can be used in cases with insufficient attached gingiva, and provides excellent aesthetic results and colour match. The only drawback of the technique is, it can be used for treatment of single tooth recessions only.<sup>51</sup>

Several authors have used the rotational pedicle flaps for root coverage and reported its long term stability, Only few studies are available with a follow up of more than 5 years as

of rotational pedicle flaps are considered. Ajay Mahajan<sup>38</sup> et al in 2018, in his systematic review of periosteal pedicle grafts stated that it has has minimal side effects and improved clinical parameters when compared to other root coverage techniques in over a period of 10 years, which is the longest follow up period available in the literature assessing the efficacy of pedicle graft. Luiz Armando<sup>52</sup> et al in 2009 stated that, treatment of gingival recessions with LPF showed significant improvement in all clinical parameters, whereas gain in width of keratinized tissue was more in maxillary defects when compared with mandibular defects in 2 years. Thiago Machi in 2010 reported that with LPF, gingival recessions showed complete root coverage, increased keratinized tissue, absence of dentin hypersensitivity and very good aesthetic outcomes in a span of 1 year. A.M.Noorudien<sup>39</sup> in 2013 reported that, LPF showed keratinized tissue gain and 8mm attachment gain in 6 years. Root coverage of 83% was obtained in a span of 1 year and 3 years with LPF along with CTG, as reported by Awadesh Kumar<sup>47</sup> and Chun Tee Lee<sup>44</sup> in 2014 respectively. Pallavi<sup>46</sup> in 2014 and Sunil<sup>48</sup> in 2017 treated gingival recessions with Double papilla flaps and reported aesthetically satisfying results in 3 months and 1 year respectively.(Tables 1 and 2)

## 3. Summary of Findings

This review aimed to evaluate all the available literature reporting long term outcomes of techniques for treatment of gingival recession. Literature search revealed that only few articles presented long term findings of root coverage techniques. Of all the studies 3 studies reported long term follow up for FGG as 25 years,19 studies reported a long term follow up for CAF in combination with CTG,EMD,ADM etc, with the longest follow being 22 years, Whereas 3 studies reported the longest follow up of CTG being 18 years. Minimum evidence was found for pedicle grafts out of which most of them were only case reports with a maximum follow up of 10 years. The longest long term follow up available was 25 years which was for FGG

On analysing the collected literature:

- Apart from CAF+CTG there is a lack of evidence for long term clinical outcomes and stability of results for other techniques of root coverage
- 2. All the studies used complete root coverage, Height and width of keratinized tissue, absence of periodontal pocket and bleeding on probing and presence of clinically healthy gingiva of the treated sites as the primary outcome
- 3. Very few studies have analysed other parameters like height of the interdental tissue, status of dentinal hypersensitivity and patient satisfaction

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4 years	SCTG	Langer <sup>22</sup> et al	1985	Longitudin: study	aKO patients	• Root coverage	• 2-6mm root coverage has been achieved
4 years	FGG+ Vestibulo	Rateitschak pKiłły <sup>3</sup> et al	1979	Longitudina study	l 12 patients (42 teeth)	• Vestibular depth	<ul> <li>Increase in vestibular depth</li> <li>Vestibule depth decrease up to transplant margin</li> <li>Graft shrinkage up to 25%</li> </ul>
3 years	LPF+ SCTG	Chu tee lee <sup>44</sup> et al	2014	Case report	3 recessio sites	• Recession depth • rHypersensitivity	<ul> <li>Improvement in recession depth</li> <li>Reduced /hypersensitivity</li> </ul>
3 years	CAF Vs CAF+CM	Karin Jepsen <sup>20</sup> 1 <b>X</b> t al	2017	RCT	18 patients (36 sites)	<ul> <li>Percentage of root coverage</li> <li>Complete root coverage</li> <li>Thickness of attached gingiva</li> <li>Width of attached gingiva</li> </ul>	CAF+CMX • 91.7% root coverage • Increased thickness and width of attached gingiva
3 years	CAF+CT vs CAF	œairo. F <sup>30</sup> et al	2015	RCT	24 patients (CAF+C 13 patients CAF- 11 patients)	<ul> <li>Recession depth</li> <li>Probing depth</li> <li>CTGAL</li> <li>Distance from incisal margin to CEJ</li> <li>Distance from incisal margin to Gingival margin</li> <li>Distance from incisal margin to MGJ</li> <li>Keratinized tissue</li> <li>Dental hypersensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>CAF+CTG was better in terms of complete root coverage &amp; higher KT gain</li> <li>No difference between the groups in recession depth, probing depth and CAL</li> </ul>
3 years	LPF vs CAF	Raul G. Caffesse <sup>45</sup> et al	1980	Observation study	a¤6 recessio sites	<ul> <li>Pocket depth</li> <li>Gingival recession</li> <li>Width of attached gingiva</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No significant changes between two groups</li> <li>Clinical parameters remained stable</li> </ul>
3 years	CAF	de Sanctis M et al <sup>14</sup>	2007	Longitudina study	l 40 patiets	<ul> <li>Recession depth</li> <li>Pocket depth</li> <li>CAL</li> <li>Height of keratinized tissue</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improvement in recession depth</li> <li>Gain in CAL</li> <li>Reduced probing depth • Increased keratinized tissue</li> </ul>
2 years	LPF	Luiz Armando Chambronee <sup>4</sup> et al	2009 45	Longitudina study	132 patients	<ul> <li>Recession depth</li> <li>Keratinized tissue width</li> <li>Probing depth • CAL</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Decrease in recession depth</li> <li>Decreased CAL</li> <li>Decrease in probing depth</li> <li>Increased keratinized tissue width</li> </ul>
1 year	Double papilla flap	Pallavi samantha <sup>46</sup> et al	2014	Case report	1 patient (1 site)	<ul> <li>Recession length</li> <li>Recession width</li> <li>Width of attached gingiva</li> <li>Probing depth</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Complete root coverage</li><li>Good aesthetics</li></ul>
1 year	LPF+CT	GAvadesh <sup>47</sup> et al	2014	Case report	1 patient (1 site)	<ul><li> Recession depth</li><li> PPD</li><li> Gingival height</li></ul>	• Predictable root coverage achieved
1 year	Double papilla flap+ CTG	Sunil <sup>48</sup> et al	2017	Case report	1 patient (1 site)	<ul><li> Recession depth</li><li> Recession width</li><li> Width of keratinized tissue</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Root coverage</li> <li>Increased width of keratinized gingiva</li> </ul>
1 year	LPF+CT	GThiago Machi <sup>49</sup> et al	2010	Case report	1 patient (1 site)	<ul> <li>Recession depth</li> <li>Width of keratinized tissue</li> <li>Dentin hypersensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Complete root coverage</li> <li>Increased keratinized tissue</li> <li>Absence of dentin hypersensitivity</li> <li>Good aesthetic outcome</li> </ul>

ADM- Acellular Dermal Matrix, ADMA - Acellular Dermal Matrix Allograft, CAF- Coronally Advanced Flap, CTG-Connective Tissue Graft, CAL-Clinical Attachment Level, CMX- Xenogenic Collagen Matrix, CEJ- Cemento Enamel Junction, FGG- Free Gingival Graft, KT- Keratinized Tissue, LPF-Laterally Positioned Flap, MGJ- Mucogingival Junction, PPD- Probing Pocket Depth, PGF- Platelet Derived Growth Factor, RD- Recession Depth, RCT-Randomized Control Trial, SCTG- Subepithelial Connective Tissue Graft, wKT - Width of Keratinized Tissue

- 4. In cases of recession with inadequate keratinized tissue or shallow vestibule FGG appears to provide long term stable results in terms of increase in width of keratinized tissue. But evidence for complete root coverage is moderate.
- 5. In cases with adequate amount of keratinized tissue CAF appears to be the treatment of choice and long term evidence supports the same. CAF along with additives like GTR, AMD, PRF etc does not prove to be better over CAF alone over long term
- 6. CAF + CTG is the most extensively reported technique with long term results. This seems to be the most promising technique in terms of complete root coverage, gain in keratinized tissue, esthetics, over long term and is rightly considered the "Gold Standard"

## 4. Conclusion

Treatment of gingival recession has gained therapeutic importance over years due to increased aesthetic concern among patients and advent of new promising surgical techniques. Though CTG is considered as the gold standard it is not the only best surgical option in all cases. Careful analysis of patient related factors, defect related factors, clinician's expertise should be the key considerations in selecting appropriate technique.

## 5. Conflicts of interest

All authors declare no conflicts of interest pertaining to the stated work.

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None.

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