

# Introduction

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Mucogingival therapy is a general term describing nonsurgical and surgical treatment procedures for the correction of defects in morphology, position, and/or amount of soft tissue and underlying bony support around teeth and dental implants. The term mucogingival surgery was introduced in the literature by Friedman in 1957 and was defined as "surgical procedures for the correction of relationship between the gingiva and the oral mucous membrane with reference to problems associated with attached gingiva, shallow vestibules, and a frenum attachment that interfere with the marginal gingiva." Frequently, however, the term mucogingival surgery described all surgical procedures that involved both the gingiva and the alveolar mucosa.

Consequently, not only were techniques designed (a) to enhance the width of the gingiva and (b) to correct particular soft tissue defects regarded as mucogingival procedures, but included in this group of periodontal treatment modalities were (c) certain pocket-elimination approaches.

According to the latest version of the American Academy of Periodontology's Glossary of Periodontal Terms (1992), mucogingival surgery is defined as "plastic surgical procedures designed to correct defects in the morphology, position and/or amount of gingiva surrounding the teeth." Miller (1993) proposed that the term periodontal plastic surgery is more appropriate because mucogingival surgery has moved beyond the traditional treatment of problems associated with the amount of gingiva and recession-type defects to include correction of ridge form and soft tissue aesthetics. Consequently, periodontal plastic surgery is defined as "surgical procedures performed to prevent or correct anatomic, developmental, traumatic, or plaque disease-induced defects of the gingiva, alveolar mucosa, or bone" (American Academy of Periodontology 1996, p. 702).

## REFERENCES

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