

## ***Handling of soft tissues around implants***

The role of an adequate width of attached mucosa around dental implants in the long-term stability of peri-implant tissues is still a matter of debate. While earlier studies identified insufficient reliable evidence regarding the possible influence of the width of attached mucosa and peri-implant disease, recent publications suggest that an inadequate width and thickness of peri-implant attached mucosa may lead to increased plaque deposition and mucosal inflammation, higher risk of peri-implant alveolar bone loss, increased soft tissue recessions, and loss of clinical attachment level. This lecture proposes a decision-making process that may help the clinician to select the appropriate surgical technique for increasing the width of attached mucosa.