

## **Partial extraction therapy – a conservative approach to the surgical treatment of non-restorable teeth**

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When a tooth is extracted, the alveolar ridge suffers a remodeling process which often involves the collapse of the buccal plate. This is caused by the loss of the bundle bone, immediately after the removal of the root and the periodontal ligament. If the tooth is situated in the esthetic zone, it becomes extremely difficult to achieve a good esthetic result, either with an implant supported restoration or with a fixed bridge on natural teeth. The horizontal defect must be compensated with a guided bone regeneration, and in most cases a connective tissue graft is also needed in order to obtain an adequate gingival profile. Even though the regeneration of the lost hard and soft tissue is now possible, the predictability of these techniques is not complete.

Recently, a group of authors have proposed a more biological approach to the extraction procedure, which involves leaving the buccal aspect of the root in place and only removing the palatal section. This way, the periodontal ligament remains attached to the bundle bone, and minimal to no bone resorption occurs.

In this presentation we will highlight the main clinical aspects of the partial extraction therapies, with their indications, advantages and limitations.