

# DENTISTRY & DENTAL MARKETING

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## ORAL CARE & ORAL CANCER

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### Management of post-operative sensitivity following periodontal treatment

Post-operative sensitivity may occur following both non-surgical and surgical procedures. Other complications in the soft tissues of the oral cavity have also been reported following treatment. Traditionally data has been collected on the prevalence or incidence of root dentine hypersensitivity (RDH) or root sensitivity (RS) using pain scores such as a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) or Verbal Descriptors. These studies often evaluate the effects of professionally applied or recommended treatments such as, desensitizing varnishes, prophylaxis polishing pastes etc or assessing the effectiveness of the various flap designs with or without adjustive materials to cover exposed root surfaces resulting from the gingival recession. Relatively few studies assess the effects of periodontal procedures on the quality of life of those individuals receiving these procedures. From the available published data, there is some evidence that the discomfort experienced during both non-surgical and surgical procedures is relatively mild and transient in nature. For example, several systematic reviews have reported that the reported prevalence of RDH/RS is relatively high immediately following a non-surgical procedure with the reported discomfort gradually decreasing within two weeks. A similar picture emerges following surgical periodontal procedures with the discomfort gradually diminishing over an eight-week period. Currently, there are a plethora of both professionally applied and home use products available for the management of post-operative sensitivity following periodontal procedures. This presentation will review the available literature and provide information on the prevalence of the condition, its aetiology and causal factors, as well as practical recommendations for the clinical management of the problem.

### Biography

David G Gillam graduated as a dentist from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1977 and following postgraduate studies he was recognized as a Specialist Periodontist in 1998. Prior to joining QMUL in 2009, he gained extensive clinical experience working in general dental practice, community and academic dentistry. He also worked in the Consumer Healthcare Industry and is currently a Senior Clinical Lecturer at QMUL. His main research interests are in the area of Periodontology as well as working with Professor Robert Hill in the development of novel products for treating dental problems. He is a co-founder of Biomin Technologies Ltd., UK.

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