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In 1983, Professor Jan Lindhe, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, published the first edition of *Clinical Periodontology*. This was only 2 years after the publication of a textbook on clinical periodontology in Scandinavian languages. It was a pioneer enterprise and began a new era in the study of periodontology. Up to this point, the profession was predominantly oriented towards a treatment philosophy that was based on *deductive thinking*, and very little scientific evidence had been presented.

In this light, the publication of a textbook that was based on *inductive thinking* and hypothesis testing was a true milestone and represented a novelty in teaching undergraduate and graduate students. As the field of clinical periodontology evolved, and more evidence arose from both clinical and preclinical studies, the textbook had to be revised on a regular basis. By and large, every 5 to 8 years a new edition of *Clinical Periodontology* was put together. With every edition, efforts were made to expand the circle of authors in order to obtain more information on evidence-based concepts. The textbook thus became the most internationally recognized source of information in the periodontal community.

About 20–30 years ago, implant dentistry had become an integral part of clinical periodontology. Hence, the fifth edition of *Clinical Periodontology* was substantially expanded to incorporate biological and clinical aspects of implant dentistry. As teeth and implants are to function together as separate or connected units in the same dentition, a profound knowledge of the biology of the tissues surrounding the tooth and the dental implant is of utmost importance. Owing to the large volume of new information, the fifth edition of the now titled *Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry* was split into two volumes, one on *basic concepts* and another on *clinical concepts*. This division into two volumes was maintained for the sixth edition and is also maintained for this, the seventh edition.

In the last 35 years, during which the textbook evolved into the most popular source of reference, periodontology and implant dentistry have become clinical disciplines based on sound scientific evidence. As a new classification of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions emerged after a world workshop staged by the American Academy of Periodontology and the European Federation of Periodontology, it was time, again, to update the textbook.

In this edition, over 90% of the content has been thoroughly revised and condensed for better understanding. Some less essential chapters have been eliminated and others merged to make the text more cohesive. A new and younger generation of authors of international reputation have been invited to contribute. Moreover, the team of Editors has been enlarged to four.

It is our hope that *Lindhe’s Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry* remains the key book of reference to guide treatment planning according to sound biological and evidence-based principles rather than opinions based on trial and error philosophies.

Tord Berglundh
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March 2021
Introduction

This chapter provides a brief description of the characteristics of the normal periodontium. It is assumed that the reader has prior knowledge of oral embryology and histology.

The periodontium (peri = around, odontos = tooth) comprises the following tissues: (1) gingiva, (2) periodontal ligament, (3) root cementum, and (4) alveolar bone proper (Fig. 1-1). The latter lines the alveolus of the tooth and is continuous with the alveolar bone; on a radiograph it can be called lamina dura. The alveolar process that extends from the basal bone of the maxilla and mandible consists of the alveolar bone and the alveolar bone proper.

The main function of the periodontium is to attach the tooth to the jaw bone and to maintain the integrity of the surface of the masticatory mucosa of the oral cavity. The periodontal ligament, root cementum, and alveolar bone proper, may together be called “the attachment apparatus” or “the supporting tissues of the teeth”, constituting a developmental, biologic, and functional unit which undergoes certain changes with age and is, in addition, subjected to morphologic changes related to functional alterations and alterations in the oral environment.

The development of the periodontal tissues occurs during the development and formation of teeth. This process starts early in the embryonic phase when cells from the neural crest (from the neural tube of the embryo) migrate into the first branchial arch. In this position, the neural crest cells form a band of ectomesenchyme beneath the epithelium of the stomatodeum (the primitive oral cavity). After the uncommitted neural crest cells have reached their location in the jaw space, the epithelium of the stomatodeum releases factors which initiate epithelial–ectomesenchymal interactions. Once these interactions have occurred, the ectomesenchyme takes the dominant role in the further development. Following the formation of the dental lamina, a series of processes are initiated (bud stage, cap stage, bell stage, and root development) which result in the formation of a tooth and its surrounding periodontal tissues, including the alveolar bone proper. During the cap stage, condensation of ectomesenchymal cells appears in relation to the dental epithelium (the dental organ), forming the dental papilla that gives rise to
the dentin and the pulp, and the *dental follicle* that gives rise to the periodontal supporting tissues (Fig. 1-2). The decisive role played by the ectomesenchyme in this process is further established by the fact that the tissue of the dental papilla apparently also determines the shape and form of the tooth.

If a tooth germ in the bell stage of development is dissected and transplanted to an ectopic site (e.g. the connective tissue of the anterior chamber of the eye), the tooth formation process continues. The crown and the root are formed, and the supporting structures (i.e. cementum, periodontal ligament, and a thin lamina of alveolar bone proper) also develop. Such experiments document that all information necessary for the formation of a tooth and its attachment apparatus resides within the tissues of the dental organ and the surrounding ectomesenchyme. The dental organ is the formative organ of enamel, the dental papilla is the formative organ of the dentin–pulp complex, and the dental follicle is the formative organ of the attachment apparatus (cementum, periodontal ligament, and alveolar bone proper).

The development of the root and the periodontal supporting tissues follows that of the crown. Epithelial cells of the external and internal dental epithelium (the dental organ) proliferate in an apical direction, forming a double layer of cells called *Hertwig’s epithelial root sheath*. The odontoblasts forming the dentin of the root differentiate from ectomesenchymal cells in the dental papilla under the inductive influence of the inner epithelial cells (Fig. 1-3). The dentin continues to form in an apical direction, producing the framework of the root. During formation of the root, the periodontal supporting tissues including the acellular extrinsic fiber cementum (AEFC) develop. Some of the events in cementogenesis are still unclear, but the following concept is now generally accepted.

At the start of root dentin formation, the inner cells of Hertwig’s epithelial root sheath may synthesize and secrete enamel-related proteins, some of which belong to the amelogenin family. At the end of this process, the epithelial root sheath becomes fenestrated and ectomesenchymal cells from the dental follicle penetrate through these fenestrations and contact the root surface. The ectomesenchymal cells in contact with the root surface differentiate into cementoblasts and start to form cementoid. This cementoid represents the organic matrix of the cementum and consists of a ground substance and collagen fibers, which intermingle with collagen fibers in the not yet fully mineralized outer layer of the dentin. It is assumed that the cementum becomes firmly attached to the dentin through these fiber interactions followed by mineralization of this interface (Fig. 1-4). The formation of the CIFC, which often covers the apical third of the dental roots, differs from that of AEFC.
as some of the cementoblasts become embedded in the cementum.

The remaining parts of the periodontium are formed by ectomesenchymal cells from the dental follicle lateral to the cementum. Some of them differentiate into periodontal ligament fibroblasts and form the fibers of the periodontal ligament, while others become osteoblasts and form the alveolar bone proper in which the periodontal fibers are anchored. This bony structure has also been termed “bundle bone”. In other words, the bundle bone is also an ectomesenchymal product. It is likely, but still not conclusively documented, that ectomesenchymal cells remain in the mature periodontium and take part in the turnover of this tissue.

**Gingiva**

**Anatomy**

The oral mucosa is continuous with the skin of the lips and the mucosa of the soft palate and pharynx. The oral mucosa consists of: (1) the *masticatory mucosa*, which includes the gingiva and the covering of the hard palate; (2) the *specialized mucosa*, which covers the dorsum of the tongue; and (3) the remaining part, called the *lining mucosa*.

The gingiva is that part of the masticatory mucosa which covers the alveolar process and surrounds the cervical portion of the teeth (Fig. 1-5). It consists of an epithelial layer and an underlying connective tissue layer called the *lamina propria*. The gingiva obtains its final shape and texture in conjunction with eruption of the teeth.

In the coronal direction, the coral pink gingiva terminates in the *free gingival margin*, which has a scalloped outline. In the apical direction, the gingiva is continuous with the loose, darker red *alveolar mucosa* (lining mucosa) from which the gingiva is separated by a usually easily recognizable border called either the mucogingival junction, sometimes termed the mucogingival line (Fig. 1-5, arrows). As the hard palate and maxillary alveolar process are covered by a keratinizing mucosa of similar clinical appearance, no mucogingival junction is macroscopically recognizable (Fig. 1-6).

Two parts of the gingiva may be identified (Fig. 1-7): (1) the free gingiva and (2) the attached gingiva. The free gingiva is coral pink, has a dull surface and a firm consistency. It comprises the gingival tissue at the vestibular and lingual/palatal aspects of the teeth. On the vestibular and lingual sides of the teeth, the free gingiva extends from the gingival margin in an apical direction to a structure named *free gingival groove*, which is only observable in approximately one-third of the cases. The attached gingiva is demarcated by the mucogingival junction in the apical direction.

The free gingival margin is often rounded in such a way that a small invagination or sulcus is formed between the tooth and the gingiva. When a periodontal probe is inserted into this invagination and, further apically, towards the cemento-enamel junction (CEJ), the gingival tissue is separated from the tooth and a “gingival pocket” or “gingival crevice” is artificially opened (Fig. 1-8). Thus, in clinically healthy gingiva, there is in fact no “gingival pocket” or “gingival crevice” present, but the gingiva is in close contact with the enamel surface. After complete tooth eruption, the free gingival margin is located on the enamel surface approximately 1.5–2 mm coronal to the CEJ.

The shape of the *interdental gingiva* (the *interdental papilla*) is determined by the contact relationships between the teeth, the width of the approximal tooth
When two daughter cells have been formed by cell division, an adjacent “older” basal cell is pushed into the spinous cell layer and starts, as a keratinocyte, to traverse the epithelium (Fig. 1-22). It takes approximately 1 month for a keratinocyte to reach the outer epithelial surface, where it is shed from the stratum corneum. Within a given time, the number of cells which divide in the basal layer equals the number of cells which are shed from the surface. Thus, under homeostatic conditions, there is equilibrium between cell renewal and cell loss so that the epithelium maintains a constant thickness. As the basal cell migrates through the epithelium, it becomes flattened with its long axis parallel to the epithelial surface.

The basal cells are found immediately adjacent to the soft connective tissue and are separated from it by the basement membrane, probably produced by the basal cells themselves. Under the light microscope, this membrane appears as a structureless zone approximately 1-2 μm wide and reacts positively to a periodic acid-Schiff (PAS) stain (Fig. 1-23). This positive reaction demonstrates that the basement membrane contains carbohydrates (glycoproteins). The epithelial cells are surrounded by an extracellular substance which also contains protein-polysaccharide complexes.

At the ultrastructural level, the basement membrane has a complex composition (Fig. 1-24). Immediately beneath the basal cells, an approximately 400 Å wide electron-lucent zone can be seen, which is called the lamina lucida. Beneath the lamina lucida, an electron-dense zone of approximately the same thickness can be observed. This zone is called lamina densa. From the lamina densa, so-called anchoring fibrils project in a fan-shaped fashion into the soft connective tissue. The anchoring fibrils are approximately 1 μm.
in length and terminate freely in the soft connective tissue. The basement membrane, which under the light microscope appears as an entity, thus, in the electron micrograph, appears to comprise one lamina lucida and one lamina densa with adjacent anchoring fibrils that interdigitate with the soft connective tissue fibers. The cell membrane of the epithelial cells facing the lamina lucida harbors a number of electron-dense, thicker zones appearing at various intervals along the cell membrane. These structures are called hemidesmosomes. The cytoplasmic tonofilaments (cytokeratin filaments) in the cell converge towards the hemidesmosomes. The hemidesmosomes are involved in the attachment of the epithelium to the underlying basement membrane.

The stratum spinosum consists of 10–20 layers of relatively large, polyhedral cells, equipped with short cytoplasmic processes resembling spines (Fig. 1-25). These cytoplasmic processes occur at regular intervals and give the cells a prickly appearance. Together with intercellular protein–carbohydrate complexes, cohesion between the cells is provided by numerous “desmosomes” (pairs of hemidesmosomes), which are located between the cytoplasmic processes of adjacent cells. In the transmission electron microscope, the dark-stained structures between the individual epithelial cells represent the desmosomes (arrows) (Fig. 1-26). A desmosome may be considered to be two hemidesmosomes facing one another. The
Anatomy of Periodontal Tissues

The presence of a large number of desmosomes indicates that the cohesion between the epithelial cells is solid.

A schematic drawing of a desmosome is shown in Fig. 1-27. A desmosome can be considered to consist of two adjoining hemidesmosomes separated by a zone containing electron-dense granulated material. Thus, a desmosome comprises the following structural components: (1) the outer leaflet of the cell membranes of two adjoining cells; (2) the thick inner leaflets of the cell membranes; and (3) the attachment plaques, which represent granular and fibrillar material in the cytoplasm.

As mentioned previously, the oral epithelium also contains melanocytes, which are responsible for the production of the pigment melanin (Fig. 1-28).

Melanocytes are present in individuals with marked pigmentation of the oral mucosa as well as in individuals in whom no clinical signs of pigmentation can be seen. In this transmission electron micrograph, a melanocyte is present in the lower portion of the stratum spinosum. In contrast to the keratinocytes, this cell contains melanin granules and has no tonofilaments or hemidesmosomes. Note the large number of tonofilaments in the cytoplasm of the adjacent keratinocytes. The inclusion of melanin granules may result in a distinct pigmentation of the oral gingival epithelium and is normally encountered in people with a dark complexion (Fig. 1-29).

As indicated previously, the keratinocytes undergo continuous differentiation and specialization when traversing the epithelium from the basal layer to the...
epithelial surface (Fig. 1-30). From the basal layer (stratum basale) to the granular layer (stratum granulosum) both the number of tonofilaments in the cytoplasm and the number of desmosomes increase. In contrast, the number of organelles, such as mitochondria, lamellae of rough endoplasmic reticulum, and Golgi complexes decrease in the keratinocytes on their way from the basal layer towards the surface. In the stratum granulosum, electron-dense keratohyalin bodies and clusters of glycogen-containing granules start to appear. Such granules are believed to be related to the synthesis of keratin.

Dentogingival epithelium

The tissue components of the dentogingival region achieve their final structural characteristics in conjunction with the eruption of the teeth. This is illustrated in Fig. 1-33a–d.

When the enamel of the tooth is fully developed, the enamel-producing cells (ameloblasts) become reduced in height, produce a basal lamina, and form, together with cells from the outer enamel epithelium, the so-called reduced enamel epithelium. The basal lamina lies in direct contact with the enamel. The contact between this lamina and the epithelial cells is maintained by hemidesmosomes. The reduced enamel epithelium surrounds the crown of the tooth.