



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Authors' reply

Dear Editor,

We are glad that our article has raised so much interest. In the following sentences, you can read our answers to Rao *et al.* who criticised our article:

1 The correct term should have been 'long junctional epithelium' as Rao *et al.* pointed out.

2 The use of 'they' is referring to the fact that Hiatt *et al.* (1) analysed the tensile strength at the gingival root interface over time, as the reference indicates.

3 Due to the exploratory nature of this study, the amount of sample was chosen considering similar researches [for details see (2)].

4 Patients who were already treated for periodontitis and pregnant women were not included.

5 It was a blind study since the operators did not know the rationale of the research.

6 The application of periodontal dressing is not a therapeutic procedure, and its use has the aim to improve the clinical procedure, namely SRP. Therefore, ethical commission's approval is not pertinent. A similar study did not mention the ethical approval [for details see (2)].

7 Operators made a calibration procedure to apply the same force of 30 g.

8 The term 'gingival' has been used as an adjective throughout the text. However, in the sentence 'the width of remaining attached gingiva is commonly...', the word gingival is inappropriate and it should be corrected as gingiva.

9 We used probing attachment level (PAL) as the only parameter in this research.

10 The aim of this research was to evaluate changes in probing depth and PAL from baseline and final evaluation both on test and control site. As a consequence, indicating the average values of these parameters at different time points – and not the differences – seems to be elusive.

11 The figure shows periodontal tissues immediately after the treatment.

12 Reference 19 is present in the introduction section followed by reference 21. Reference 20 should be changed in reference 40. A repetition in the reference has been occurred.

References

- 1 Hiatt WH, Stallard RE, Butler ED, Badgett B. Repair following mucoperiosteal flap surgery with full gingival retention. *J Periodontol* 1968; **39**: 11–16.
- 2 Sigusch BW, Pfitzner A, Nietzsche T, Glockmann E. Periodontal dressing (Vocopac) influences outcomes in a two-step treatment procedure. *J Clin Periodontol* 2005; **32**: 401–405.

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