
NEWS FROM AROUND THE PROBE

PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma): Helping You Heal

Platelet Rich Plasma is an exciting technology that can speed and improve the healing process after periodontal surgery. Your own growth factors make this a safe substance which can be used in many types of procedures.

What Exactly is PRP?

PRP is composed of platelets and plasma. Platelets are tiny cells that are partially responsible for causing blood to clot, and contain reservoirs of natural growth factors. The potent growth factors can stimulate connective tissue healing, bone regeneration and repair, and development of new blood vessels, ultimately aiding in the healing process.

How is it Made?

In the past, to produce PRP, a large amount of blood was needed. It was difficult for the process to occur for outpatient surgery because it required specially trained personnel and a transfusion of blood products. Currently, surgeons can use an in-office PRP system to prepare PRP during the surgical procedure.

To make PRP, Dr. Berlanga or a trained assistant draws 50-60 ml of your blood at the time of your surgery. (The procedure/amount is similar to a standard blood donation.) The blood is placed in a special centrifuge that spins and separates the red blood cells from the plasma. The plasma is then further centrifuged to concentrate the natural growth factors. The end product is a protein-rich, gel-like substance.

How is PRP Used?

The PRP can now be applied to the surgical site after surgery is complete, and helps seal the tissues and advance the healing process. By contributing to your own healing process, Platelet Rich Plasma can speed your recovery.

Other uses to improve surgical success include:

- Controlling bleeding
- Accelerating bone and soft tissue grafts

For:

- Cardiovascular surgery
- Ear, Nose and Throat procedures
- Orthopedic surgery
- Cosmetic and Reconstructive surgery

Are there any Options to PRP?

PRP tends to be superior to other healing aids. Other available products, such as recombinant materials, do not contain the same ratio of growth factors; the growth factor ratio in PRP is the same as within your own body. Also, other products may contain synthetic derivatives or blood derivatives from another donor.

Is PRP Right for Me?

Because PRP uses the patient's own blood products, it has been safely used for over ten years in various medical disciplines. It has been clinically shown to reduce swelling, bleeding and bruising as well as improve wound healing and bone growth. However, it is an optional procedure - you should discuss this technique with Dr. Berlanga to decide if PRP would benefit your treatment plan.



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