

PLATELET RICH FIBRIN (PRF) AND PLATELET RICH GROWTH FACTORS (PRGF)

Platelets are best known for their importance in clotting blood. However, platelets also contain hundreds of proteins called growth factors which are very important in the healing of injuries and healing after surgery. These growth factors stimulate tissues to begin the healing process.

PRF and PRGF are components of platelet rich plasma (PRP), extracted from the patient's own blood by a centrifuging process. These products have been widely used in medicine for over a decade to promote healing in heart surgery, orthopedics, oral and maxillofacial surgery and dermatology.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *In what circumstances are PRF and PRGF used?*

- Bone grafting, gum grafting and sinus lift procedures for implants
- Implant placement
- Bone augmentation
- Following tooth extraction to facilitate healing
- Repair of bony defects in the jaw from cysts or trauma

2. *What are the benefits of PRF and PRGF?*

- The patient's own blood is utilized, thereby eliminating any disease transmission risk.
- These growth factors are believed to speed the natural healing process, reduce post-surgical complications and decrease the risk of infection and tissue/graft rejection.
- Many patients report more comfort immediately following the procedure.

3. *How are PRF and PRGF used in the surgical site?*

- A fibrin membrane, rich in both these growth factors, is created by centrifuging the patient's blood and placing it at the surgical site.
- The fibrin may also be mixed with bone grafts to help stimulate bone formation.

4. *Are PRF and PRGF safe?*

After your dentist has reviewed your medical history and ruled out any disqualifying blood or clotting disorders, this procedure is very safe.