

A Passion to Protect

The Origin of the Perio Protect Method™


Duane Keller's work on a non-invasive tool to place medication under the gum line began years ago when his mother Mercedes Keller refused surgical treatment. After one quadrant of flap surgery she decided that the procedures and recovery were simply too painful to continue. She would not, however, sacrifice her teeth, so she offered to try any development that might control the infection.

Faced with the limitations of conventional therapy and driven by concern for his mother's condition, Duane went to work. First he devised tufted floss soaked in medication. His mother dutifully flossed with some success, but the method was messy and required extra effort. Next he used special brushes, syringe delivery of medication, and even irrigation techniques, but the crevicular fluids washed the medications away too quickly.

During Duane's experiments, the scope of Mercedes Keller's disease decreased, but the therapies were time consuming and failed to totally arrest the disease. Most patients, Duane believed, would refuse such rigorous homecare routines. There had to be a more simple solution.

Duane began to experiment with a variety of dental trays. In his early versions the medication seeped out too easily, but once the design was perfected Mercedes was the first to see results. He tried the prototype on several other patients with continuing success.

It was time to make this simple, non-invasive method available to other doctors and their patients who suffered from similar struggles. The Perio Protect Tray™, as it was called in the early days, received clearance from the Food and Drug Administration in 2004. Today it's simply called the Perio Tray® and has helped thousands of patients place medication in their periodontal pockets.

Mercedes Keller died in 2007, missing only one wisdom tooth. We hope that Duane Keller's "passion to protect" becomes key to your practice and that the success of his pioneering mother is shared by your patients. 



Mercedes Keller