CLAIMS:

1. Use of a photoactivatable composition for accelerating closure of an open dental socket in a subject, wherein the photoactivatable composition comprises:

- at least one oxidant;

- at least one photoactivator capable of activating the oxidant; and

- at least one healing factor selected from hyaluronic acid, glucosamine and allantoin;

in association with a suitable carrier.

2. The use as defined in claim 1, wherein the closure of the open dental socket is suture-less.

3. The use as defined in claims 1 or 2, wherein the open dental socket is secondary to tooth extraction.

4. The use as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the oxidant is selected from hydrogen peroxide, carbamide peroxide and benzoyl peroxide.

5. The use as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the oxidant is selected from peroxy acid and an alkali metal percarbonate.

6. The use as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the photoactivatable composition further comprises at least one hydrophilic gelling agent.

7. The use as defined in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic gelling agent is selected from glucose, modified starch, methyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, propyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carbopol™ polymers, alginic acid, sodium alginate, potassium alginate, ammonium alginate, calcium alginate, agar, carrageenan, locust bean gum, pectin, and gelatin.

8. The use as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the photoactivator is selected from a xanthene derivative dye, an azo dye, a biological stain, and a carotenoid.

9. The use as defined in claim 8, wherein said xanthene derivative dye is selected from a fluorene dye, a fluorone dye, and a rhodole dye.

10. The use as defined in claim 9, wherein said fluorene dye is selected from a pyronine dye and a rhodamine dye.

11. The use as defined in claim 10, wherein said pyronine dye is selected from pyronine Y and pyronine B.

12. The use as defined in claim 10, wherein said rhodamine dye is selected from rhodamine B, rhodamine G and rhodamine WT.

13. The use as defined in claim 9, wherein said fluorone dye is selected from fluorescein and fluorescein derivatives.

14. The use as defined in claim 13, wherein said fluorescein derivative is selected from phloxine B, rose bengal, and merbromine.

15. The use as defined in claim 13, wherein said fluorescein derivative is selected from eosin Y, eosin B and erythrosine B.

16. The use as defined in claim 15, wherein said fluorescein derivative is eosin Y.

17. The use as defined in claim 8, wherein said azo dye is selected from methyl violet, neutral red, para red, amaranth, carmoisine, allura red AC, tartrazine, orange G, ponceau 4R, methyl red, and murexide-ammonium purpurate.

18. The use as defined in claim 8, wherein said biological stain is selected from saffranin O, basic fuchsin, acid fuschin, 3,3' dihexylocarbocyanine iodide, carminic acid, and indocyanine green.

19. The use as defined in claim 8, wherein said carotenoid is selected from crocetin, α-crocin (S,S-diapo-S,S-carotenoic acid), zeaxanthine, lycopene, α-carotene, β-carotene, bixin, and fucoxanthine.

20. The use as defined in claim 8, wherein said carotenoid is present in the photoactivatable composition as a mixture selected from saffron red powder, annatto extract and brown algae extract.

21. The use as defined in any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein said photoactivatable composition further comprises at least one chelating agent selected from ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid (EGTA).

22. Use of a composition for accelerating closure of an open dental socket in a subject, the composition comprising: at least one oxidant, and eosin Y in a form suitable for application onto an oral tissue, wherein eosin Y is photoexcitable by application of actinic light having a wavelength between about 400 nm and about 700 nm onto the composition.

23. The use as defined in claim 22, wherein the closure of the open dental socket is suture-less.

24. The use as defined in claims 22 or 23, wherein the open dental socket is secondary to tooth extraction.

25. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 24, wherein the application of actinic light is for a period of less than 5 minutes.

26. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 24, wherein the application of actinic light is for a period of about 5 minutes.

27. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 25, wherein the application of actinic light is for a period of less than 5 minutes per cm^2 of an area to be treated.

28. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 24 and 26, wherein the application of actinic light is for a period of about 5 minutes per cm^2 of an area to be treated.

29. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 28, wherein the oxidant is selected from hydrogen peroxide, carbamide peroxide and benzoyl peroxide.

30. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 29, wherein the composition further comprises at least one hydrophilic gelling agent.

31. The use as defined in claim 30, wherein the hydrophilic gelling agent is selected from glucose, modified starch, methyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, propyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carbomer polymers, alginic acid, sodium alginate, potassium alginate, ammonium alginate, calcium alginate, agar, carrageenan, locust bean gum, pectin, and gelatin.

32. The use as defined in claims 22 to 31, wherein the composition further comprises a xanthene derivative dye, an azo dye, a biological stain, or a carotenoid.

33. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 32, wherein said composition further comprises at least one chelating agent selected from ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid (EGTA).

34. The use as defined in any one of claims 22 to 33, wherein the composition further comprises at least one of: phloxine B, rose bengal, merbromine, eosin B, fluorescein, erythrosine B, saffranin O, saffron red powder, annatto extract, brown algae extract, basic fuchsin, acid fuschin, 3,3' dihexylocarbocyanine iodide, carminic acid, indocyanine green, crocetin, α-crocin (8,8-diapo-8,8-carotenoic acid), zeaxanthine, lycopene, α-carotene, β-carotene, bixin, fucoxanthine, methyl violet, neutral red, para red, amaranth, carmoisine, allura red AC, tartrazine, orange G, ponceau 4R, methyl red, murexide-ammonium purpurate, pyronine Y and pyronine B.

35. Use of a composition for accelerating closure of an open dental socket in a subject, the composition comprising: at least one oxidant, a fluorescent compound and an healing factor selected from hyaluronic acid, glucosamine and allantoin, wherein the fluorescent compound changes color upon exposure to actinic light having an emission wavelength between about 400 nm and about 700 nm.

36. The use as defined in claim 35, wherein the closure of the open dental socket is suture-less.

37. The use as defined in claims 35 or 36, wherein the open dental socket is secondary to tooth extraction.

38. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 37, wherein the exposure to actinic light is for a period of less than 5 minutes.

39. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 or 37, wherein the exposure to actinic light is for a period of about 5 minutes.

40. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 38, wherein the exposure to actinic light is for a period of less than 5 minutes per cm^2 of an area to be treated.

41. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 37 and 39, wherein the exposure to actinic light is for a period of about 5 minutes per cm^2 of an area to be treated.

42. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 41, wherein the oxidant is selected from hydrogen peroxide, carbamide peroxide and benzoyl peroxide.

43. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 42, wherein the composition further comprises at least one hydrophilic gelling agent.

44. The use as defined in claim 43, wherein the hydrophilic gelling agent is selected from glucose, modified starch, methyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, propyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carbomer polymers, alginic acid, sodium alginate, potassium alginate, ammonium alginate, calcium alginate, agar, carrageenan, locust bean gum, pectin, and gelatin.

45. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 44, wherein the fluorescent compound is eosin Y.

46. The use as defined in any one of claims 35 to 44, wherein the fluorescent compound is selected from a xanthene derivative dye, an azo dye, a biological stain and a carotenoid.

47. Use of a composition for accelerating closure of an open dental socket in a subject, the composition comprising at least one oxidant, wherein the oxidant comprises about 3% to about 16% urea peroxide or about 1% to about 12% hydrogen peroxide, and a fluorescent compound, wherein the fluorescent compound changes color upon exposure to actinic light having an emission wavelength between about 400 nm and 700 nm.

48. The use as defined in claim 48, wherein the closure of the open dental socket is suture-less.

49. The use as defined in claims 48 or 49, wherein the open dental socket is secondary to tooth extraction.

50. The use as defined in any one of claims 48 to 50, wherein the actinic light is to be emitted from a halogen lamp, LED lamp or a plasma arc lamp.

51. Use of a photoactivatable composition in accelerating closure of an open dental socket, wherein said composition comprises:

at least one oxidant,

at least one photoactivator capable of activating the oxidant; and

at least one healing factor chosen from hyaluronic acid, glucosamine and allantoin,

in association with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier;

wherein said composition is suitable for application in a subject's mouth and is activatable upon illumination with actinic light for a time sufficient for said photoactivator to cause activation of the oxidant.