



Crown Lengthening

Crown lengthening is performed to improve the health of the gum tissue or to prepare the mouth for restorative or cosmetic procedures. Crown lengthening procedures can also be used to correct a “gummy” smile, where teeth are covered with excess gum tissue. This treatment can be performed on a single tooth, multiple teeth, or the entire gum line.

Reasons for Crown Lengthening

- Restoration of damaged teeth: Periodontal disease can cause severe damage to the teeth, as can trauma and decay. Where teeth have been broken beneath the gum line, crown lengthening can be used to prepare the area for a new restoration to correct the damaged teeth.
- Cosmetics: Extra gum tissue can make teeth look unnaturally short and can also increase susceptibility to periodontal infections. Removing excess gum tissue can restore a balanced, healthy look and improve the aesthetic appearance of the smile.
- Dental crowns: Crown lengthening provides more space between the supporting jawbone and dental crown. This prevents the new crown from damaging gum tissues and bone once it is in place.

Crown Lengthening Procedure

- The surgeon will make small incisions around the soft tissue to separate the gums from the teeth. Even if only one tooth requires the re-contour, neighboring teeth are usually treated to provide a more even reshaping. Separating the gums provides your doctor with access to the roots of the teeth and the underlying bone.
- In most cases, the removal of a small amount of tissue will provide enough tooth exposure to place a crown. In other cases, your dentist will need to remove a small amount of bone from around the teeth. The teeth will look noticeably longer immediately after surgery as the gums will have been repositioned.
- Your dentist will secure the surgical site using an intraoral (periodontal) bandage which serves to prevent infection. Prescriptions may be provided for pain medication, and a mouth rinse may be given to help reduce any bacteria attempting to re-colonize. The surgical site will be completely healed in approximately two to three months.

