

Initial Healing - The initial healing of the area will take one to two weeks. During this time if you experience prolonged discomfort or other problems, you should contact your periodontist.

Follow-Up Visit to your Periodontist - Two to three weeks later you will have a check-in visit with the periodontist so that any remaining sutures can be removed and your healing can be checked.

Final Periodontal Evaluation - About six to eight weeks after the procedure, you will return to the periodontist for a final evaluation and any minor revisions that may be needed. He will then send you back to your general dentist.

Frequently Asked Questions

Discomfort - Before the procedure you will be completely anesthetized for comfort. Afterwards, the area will be sore but it usually responds well to a mild pain reliever, such as Motrin. You may also be given a prescription for stronger pain medication, if needed.

Temporaries - If you have a temporary it will be removed for the surgery and then replaced before you leave the office.

Finance - Crown lengthening is a lesser-cost periodontal procedure and is usually covered by insurance. If needed, other financing options are available.

Timing - This procedure is done in one visit that lasts about an hour if only one tooth. Full healing takes place between 6 and 8 weeks. You will then be referred back to your general dentist.

Your Appearance - Afterwards your gums may look a little recessed but your new dental work will be fit to your new gum line so it will look natural. In cosmetic crown lengthening, the longer length of your teeth will enhance your smile.

The Good News



Clinical crown lengthening allows your general dentist to save many teeth that would otherwise be lost and adds to the health and longevity of the restoration you will receive.

Cosmetic crown lengthening can greatly enhance and brighten your smile, allowing you to speak and smile with confidence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or visit us on the Internet.

We look forward to seeing you!

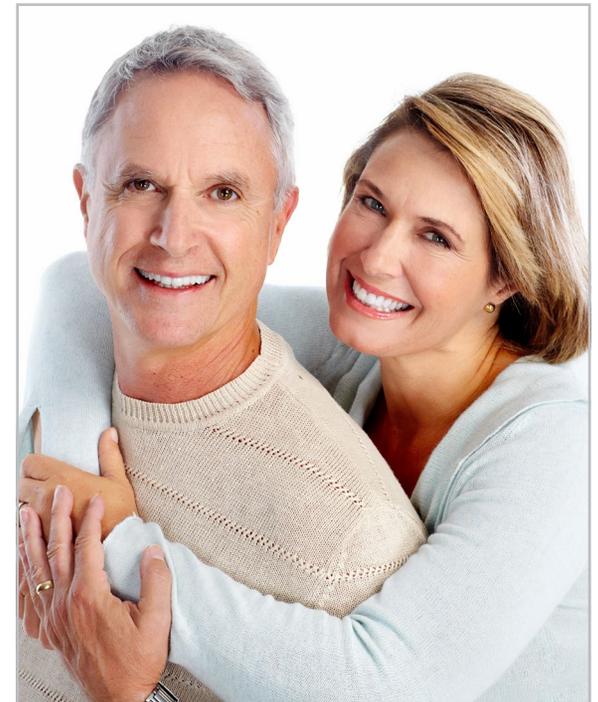


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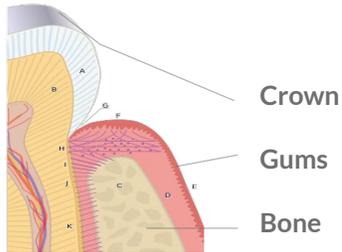
Crown Lengthening

Clinical & Cosmetic



What Is Crown Lengthening?

The crown of your tooth is that part of the tooth that shows above the gums. Crown Lengthening is a periodontal procedure where more of the tooth's crown is uncovered by reshaping the gums and bone around your tooth.



Crown lengthening is done to ensure the success of other dental work or to improve the appearance of your smile.

Clinical Crown Lengthening Ensuring the Success of Dental Work

Sometimes, when you need dental work (such as fillings, crowns and bridges), there is not enough crown above the gum line to do this dental work successfully. This is usually due to:

- Large decay near or under the gum line.
- A fractured, cracked, or broken tooth.
- Decay under a dental crown.

Dentists need to have a “biologic width” of 2 millimeters between your crown and gums to ensure your dental crown or other work will grip the tooth well with less swelling and irritation.

This “biologic width” can be obtained by clinical crown lengthening that gives added support for your dental work and reduces the likelihood of future tooth and gum problems.

As a side benefit, crown lengthening also ensures your dental work can be predictably cleaned and maintained for many years to come with less chance of periodontal disease.

Cosmetic Crown Lengthening Enhancing your Smile

You may have what is known as a “gummy” smile. This is where your gums cover too much of your teeth causing them appear too short or immature. A gummy smile can lead to self-consciousness and also contribute to periodontal problems later in life.

Fortunately, cosmetic crown lengthening for one or several front teeth can dramatically enhance your appearance with a beautiful new smile. Cosmetic crown lengthening can also restore a balanced, healthy look to your teeth allowing you to eat, speak and smile with confidence.



Before

After

Cosmetic crown lengthening starts with a cosmetic evaluation to ensure the final result will enhance not only your smile but your entire facial appearance. During the cosmetic evaluation, your periodontist will determine how your gums and bone tissues should be sculpted for an ideal and symmetrical appearance.

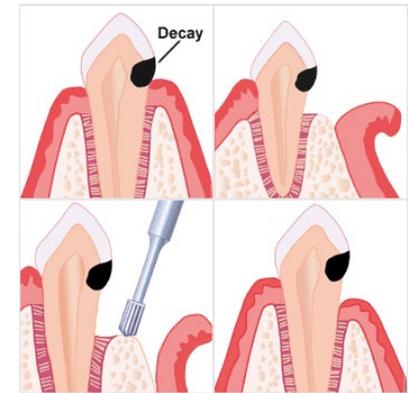
Crown Lengthening Procedure

Overall - This periodontal treatment is usually done in one visit of about an hour under local anesthesia. It can take longer if more teeth are involved or sedation is preferred.

Initial Examination - Before crown lengthening treatment, you will see the periodontist for a medical history check, x-rays and a short examination. A periodontist is a specialist in the treatment of conditions relating to the gums and bone tissue that support your teeth.

The Treatment - After you are fully anesthetized, your periodontist will make small incisions in the gums around your tooth and gently displace the gums to reveal the underlying tooth structures and supporting bone. Next, these structures will be reshaped using special instruments to expose more of your natural tooth. Your gums will then be contoured to fit the new level of the tooth.

The following is an illustration of this procedure to ensure success of a filling close to the gums.



End of Treatment - Once your periodontist has uncovered your gums and bone, the area will be washed with sterile salt water and the gum tissue stabilized with sutures and bandages.

After Treatment - After surgery, you will be given an antimicrobial mouth rinse to keep the area free of bacteria and an ice pack to reduce swelling and any possible bleeding.

There will be some soreness as the anesthetic wears off and you will be given a prescription for a mild pain reliever. You may also be given a prescription for a stronger sedative in case it is needed.

The First Day or Two - Usually you can return to your normal routine on the next day or two. A soft diet is recommended and you can brush your teeth near the sutures, but it is best to avoid the gums. Flossing in the area should be avoided.