

What is Crown Lengthening?

Crown lengthening is a surgical procedure that recontours the levels of gum tissue and sometimes bone around one or more teeth. This creates a new gum-to-tooth relationship by making sure that an adequate amount of healthy tooth is exposed. Crown lengthening can provide a solution to optimize the health, appearance, and overall comfort of your teeth.



Periodontists: Specialists in Periodontal Disease Care

A periodontist is a dentist who specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of periodontal disease, and in the surgical placement of dental implants.

With three additional years of training after dental school, periodontists have mastered the therapeutic and surgical skills necessary to provide predictable and successful periodontal disease management.



American Academy of Periodontology
perio.org

© 2023 American Academy of Periodontology

Crown Lengthening

Procedures to Enhance Your Smile and Improve Your Periodontal Health





Reasons for Crown Lengthening

Crown lengthening can give you a beautiful new smile and boost your overall confidence, but most importantly, crown lengthening can help improve your overall periodontal health. Crown lengthening is often used as part of a treatment plan for a tooth that is to be fitted with a crown to provide for a secure fit. Crown lengthening can also be used to improve a “gummy” smile if your teeth appear short. Your teeth may be the proper length, but they may be covered with too much gum tissue.

Functional Crown Lengthening or Clinical Crown Lengthening?

Functional Crown Lengthening

Functional Crown Lengthening is a surgical procedure that recontours the gum tissue and often the underlying bone surrounding one or more teeth so that an adequate amount of healthy tooth is exposed. Functional crown lengthening is often used as part of a treatment plan for a tooth that is to be fitted with a crown. This procedure provides the necessary space between the supporting bone and crown, which permits the gum tissue to establish a healthy seal to the root surface.

Your periodontist may also recommend functional crown lengthening in order to make a restorative procedure possible. For example, if a tooth is badly worn, decayed, or fractured below the gum line, crown lengthening adjusts the gum and bone levels so your periodontist is able to gain access to more of the tooth so it can be restored.

Clinical Crown Lengthening

Clinical Crown Lengthening can be done to improve a “gummy” smile or if your teeth appear short. To correct this, your periodontist can perform clinical crown lengthening. During this procedure, excess gum tissue and sometimes bone tissue are reshaped to expose more of the natural tooth. This can be done to one tooth to even your gum line or to several teeth to expose a natural broad smile.

What are the Benefits of Crown Lengthening?

Whether crown lengthening is used to improve function or esthetics, patients often receive the benefits of both. Crown lengthening is an important part of an integrated effort to optimize your health, appearance, comfort, and function.

