

CROWN LENGTHENING

Crown lengthening is a good option for patients who need more tooth structure exposed whether it be for esthetics or for function. Patients who have an excessive amount of gum tissue display when they smile (gummy smile) may be a good candidate for a crown lengthening procedure. This involves removing a small but precise amount of gum tissue and bone. Doing so exposes more of the tooth or teeth, thereby reducing the appearance of a gummy smile. Crown lengthening is a popular procedure because it is quick, relatively painless and gives almost immediate results!.

Crown lengthening is also commonly performed along with the placement of a dental crown. Your dentist may need a periodontist to remove excess gum tissue and bone around a tooth so they can treat the cavity and place a dental crown to restore your chewing function.

The day of treatment the periodontist will numb the area using a local anesthetic. Once you are properly numb, your periodontist will begin removing and reshaping small amounts of gum tissue and bone, which will result in more natural tooth exposure. Once this is complete, resorbable sutures will be placed.

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What to expect:

- Prescriptions
- Spaces between teeth
- Possible exposure of crown margins
- Sensitive to temperature
- Mild/moderate discomfort
- Inflammation
- Possible gum recession on adjacent teeth
- Sutures
- Post-op appointments
- If you take ASPIRIN, continue to take it
- If you take blood thinning medications, please follow your periodontist and doctor's instructions on taking it prior to surgery

Pre op instructions:

- No caffeine the day of procedure
- No alcohol the day before and day of the procedure
- No smoking at least 1 week prior to and after procedure.

Post op instructions:

- Soft food diet following surgery; no carbonation
- No straws, spitting, hard swishing
- Avoid heavy lifting/exercise
- Must maintain good oral hygiene
- Soft toothbrush use for the first week
- Ice pack for first 24 hours only
- StellaLife Rinse 3x a day until bottle is finished
- For pain control and reduction of swelling, take 600 mg Ibuprofen (this is 3 over the counter 200mg tablets), wait 3 hours then take 500mg Tylenol (1 over the counter tablet) and continue to alternate medications every 3 hours. If this does not control your pain, take the 600 mg ibuprofen and 500 mg Tylenol at the same time, every 6 hrs.
- If medications were prescribed, please follow the instructions on the bottle for their use.