

## **Crown Lengthening**

Crown lengthening is a procedure to remove the excess gum tissue, exposing more of the “crown” of the tooth. The gum line is then sculpted (or sutured) to create the right proportion between gum tissue and tooth surface. This sets the stage, allowing your new veneers or crowns to have the correct length and shape.



You may have asked your periodontist about procedures to improve a “gummy” smile because your teeth appear short. Your teeth may actually be the proper length, but they’re covered with too much gum tissue.

To correct this, your periodontist performs crown lengthening. This can be done to one tooth, to even your gum line, or to several teeth to expose a natural, broad smile.

Your dentist or periodontist may also recommend crown lengthening to make a restorative or cosmetic dental procedure possible. Perhaps your tooth is decayed, broken below the gum line, or has insufficient tooth structure for a restoration, such as a crown or bridge. Crown lengthening adjusts the gum and bone levels to expose more of the tooth so it can be restored.



*Q: What are the benefits of this procedure?* Whether you are crown lengthening to improve function or esthetics, patients often receive the benefits of both. A beautiful new smile and improved periodontal health—your keys to smiling, eating and speaking with comfort and confidence.

Photos by CL Townsend, D.D.S.

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