

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will crown lengthening hurt?

Once the area is numb, you will feel nothing. Once feeling is restored, some mild discomfort is anticipated with occasional temperature sensitive. Medications will be prescribed to control and alleviate any discomfort. This procedure should not cause you to miss work.

2. How long does this procedure take?

The amount of time for the surgery is determined by the numbers of treated teeth or areas. Often the procedure only lasts 60 minutes for single teeth. Rarely does this procedure take 2 hours or more.

3. How successful is the procedure?

Crown lengthening is very predictable and will allow your dentist to restore your tooth or teeth to health. The additional visible tooth structure will have improved axial retention for increased stability and stability over time. Additionally, the soft tissues will remain healthy and the new crowns will now be more easily accessible during daily oral hygiene and during cleanings with your hygienist. This access helps reduce the risk for cavities around your restorations.

4. What is the cost and does insurance cover it?

The crown lengthening cost will vary depending on the situation. The cost will be discussed with you in detail along with financial and insurance considerations. Please remember that there is a cost for the final/completed restoration by your dentist

5. What are the benefits of this procedure?

Crown lengthening is an important part of an integrated effort to optimize your health, appearance, comfort, and function. A beautiful new smile and improved periodontal health are your keys to smiling, eating, and speaking with comfort and confidence.

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Restorative Crown Lengthening



Restorative Crown Lengthening

Tooth Damage

Restorative crown and filling margins that are difficult to clean at home or by your dental hygienist are at risk for trapping bacteria where the restoration meets the tooth.

These bacteria can contribute to tooth fracture or decay. This damage can occur above or below the gum tissues on any tooth.

When damage to a tooth extends below the gum line, the tooth damage may not be completely repaired due to the lack of accessibility and visualization of the damage. A deep filling or crown can cause chronic irritated and inflamed gum tissues.

Proper access is therefore needed to help ensure that the new or replacement filling or crown completely repairs the damage to the tooth.

For the tissues to be healthy around a tooth, 3mm of space is needed between the neighboring bone and the margin of the filling or crown. This distance will ensure that the gum tissues are healthy and stable.

Brushing and flossing access is critical to keep this interface clean and free of cavities and periodontal disease.

Initial Exam



Deep restorative margins impinging on connective tissues

Poor axial retention

Expected open restorative margins due to lack of access

Post treatment



Complete access to the restorative margin circumferentially

Improved axial retention for improved longevity

Crown Placement



More restorative space for improved crown emergence profile

Accessible margins during daily oral hygiene and hygiene visits

Short Looking Teeth

Short looking teeth likely have insufficient retention to stabilize a crown long term. Insufficient support will increase the chance of a crown popping off routinely. Chewing, clenching, and/or grinding can loosen a crown. Crown lengthening will increase the amount of tooth structure available for improved mechanical retention and stability of a crown.

Lastly, if removing gum and bone tissues will worsen the survivability of the damaged tooth/teeth and the neighboring teeth, then alternatives to crown lengthening will be discussed. Once the bone tissue is removed, regenerating the adjusted bone at a later time is difficult.

