

CROWN LENGTHENING

Crown lengthening is a surgical procedure that purposely lengthens a tooth, by removing some of its bone and gum. It may be carried out for either functional or esthetic reasons.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Why would I need Crown Lengthening?*

- **Function:** Crown lengthening is indicated if there is not enough healthy tooth structure above the gum. By changing the bone level and exposing more of the tooth structure, a tooth can be properly restored with a crown or other restoration.
- **Esthetics:** Crown lengthening (also referred to as esthetic crown lengthening) may be indicated to improve a gummy smile of the front teeth. By changing the bone level around the teeth in question and subsequently changing the levels of the gums, an esthetic improvement is achieved.

2. *What are my risks associated with Crown Lengthening?*

- Risks associated with local anesthetic, bleeding, bruising, swelling and infection are all possible complications.
- Tooth sensitivity, exposure of adjacent tooth structure, exposure of restoration margins may also occur.

3. *What are my alternatives to Crown Lengthening?*

- You may elect to remove the tooth that cannot be properly restored without crown lengthening. The tooth will then likely need to be replaced.
- An alternative to crown lengthening might be to orthodontically move the tooth into the mouth.

4. *What if I elect not to have Crown Lengthening?*

- If you elect not to have crown lengthening for functional reasons, the result may be premature loss of the tooth.
- Crown lengthening may be necessary to achieve your esthetic objectives if the goal is to improve a gummy smile.



Esthetic Crown Lengthening
Before Surgery



Esthetic Crown Lengthening
After Surgery



Functional Crown Lengthening
Before Surgery



Functional Crown Lengthening
After Surgery