

Crown Lengthening Surgery

Does your gumline look uneven or do your teeth look short? Or do you need a tooth fixed but your gums cover too much of the crown? A type of gum surgery called crown lengthening can recede or even out the gumline. The surgery may be done for functional or cosmetic reasons. It can be done if more tooth structure needs to be exposed for the tooth to be restored. The surgery exposes more of the crown. This is the head of the tooth you can see above the gum line.

How crown lengthening works

Surgery to expose more of the crown includes:

- **Functional lengthening.** In some cases, decay or a fracture goes below the gum line and a restoration (crown) is needed. Gum and bone are removed to expose enough tooth to anchor the new crown. This also helps prevent future damage to gum and bone near the restoration.
- **Cosmetic lengthening.** This is done to correct an uneven gum line or remove an overgrowth of gum and, in some cases, bone tissue that causes a “gummy” smile. It can improve your appearance and may make teeth easier to keep clean.

