

Commonly Asked Questions:

- Q:** Will the crown lengthening procedure hurt?
- A:** Only “novacaine“ is necessary to perform crown lengthening. During the visit, you will feel nothing once the area has been numbed. When the “novacaine“ wears off, there may be mild discomfort. This procedure will not cause you to miss work.
- Q:** How long does a crown lengthening procedure take?
- A:** The visit to perform crown lengthening is about 60 minutes long. Dissolving stitches are used. One or two 10 minute check-ups may be scheduled to ensure that tooth is ready for restoration by the dentist.
- Q:** What is the cost of crown lengthening?
- A:** The cost of the crown lengthening will vary with the situation. Your periodontist will discuss this with you before proceeding with treatment. Please remember there will also be a cost for the restoration of the tooth with your dentist.
- Q:** How well will the crown lengthening work?
- A:** Crown lengthening is highly predictable. If the procedure is carried out correctly, the end result is a tooth which may be restored in a healthy manner, and which should prove very stable over time.

What is Crown Lengthening?



When a tooth is fractured or decayed below the gum line, this area must be uncovered before the tooth can be restored, for a number of reasons.



A tooth has broken below the gum line.

For gum to heal against a tooth in a healthy manner, there must be 3 millimeters of healthy tooth between the margin of a filling or cap and the bone which supports the tooth, to allow space for proper attachment of the gum to the tooth.

A tooth which is broken or decayed below the gum is difficult, if not impossible, for your dentist to restore correctly, as access and visualization of the area are compromised.

In addition, even the best filling or cap will trap bacteria where the restoration meets the tooth.

If this area is below the gum where you cannot properly clean it, the bacterial accumulation results in both periodontal gum problems and the formation of a new cavity at the base of the filling.



After crown lengthening, healthy tooth has been uncovered.

A crown lengthening procedure, which reshapes the gum and supporting tissues, solves these problems.

After treatment, the fractured or decayed area is uncovered and accessible to the dentist for restoration, and the gum is healthy.



The tooth has been restored in a healthy manner.

This procedure allows a final restoration to be placed in a healthy environment.