

INFORMED CONSENT FOR CROWN LENGTHENING SURGERY

Diagnosis: After a careful oral examination, radiographic evaluation and study of my dental condition, my periodontist has advised me that I would benefit from crown lengthening surgery. I understand that when a tooth is fractured or decay extends below the gumline, the bone and gum needs to be reduced in size around the tooth in order to obtain access to remove and restore the cavity, or to fix the tooth and place a filling or crown past the fracture. In order for the gum to heal against the tooth in a healthy manner, there must be 3mm of healthy tooth between the margin of the filling or crown and the crest of bone that supports the tooth. This allows for proper attachment of the gum to the tooth.

In the case of a gummy smile, the gums need to be reduced in size so the teeth have a more normal appearance.

Recommended Treatment: My periodontist has recommended crown lengthening surgery. I understand that a local anesthetic will be administered as part of the surgery. During the procedure, my gums will be opened to permit better access to the roots and jawbone. The following treatment will be performed:

- Inflamed and infected gum tissue will be removed and the root surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned.
- In order to gain greater tooth length, some bone will be removed around the tooth/teeth to be lengthened as well as the adjacent teeth.
- Any bone irregularities may be reshaped.
- My gum will then be sutured into position and a periodontal dressing may be placed.

Expected Benefits: The purpose of crown lengthening surgery is to provide my general dentist or prosthodontist better access and visualization, as well as providing more tooth structure to work with when restoring/repairing my tooth/teeth. It will also help create a biologic width that will reduce post-operative inflammation and is intended to help me keep my tooth/teeth in the operated area(s).

Principal Risks and Complications: I understand that some patients do not respond successfully to crown lengthening surgery. The surgery may not be successful in preserving function or appearance. Since each patient's condition is unique, long-term success may not occur. In rare cases the involved tooth/teeth may ultimately be lost. Transient, but on occasion permanent, increased tooth looseness may occur. If during the surgery the dentist finds a very deep cavity, fracture or any other finding that would compromise my tooth/teeth, the crown lengthening procedure will be stopped and the tooth will be extracted at or after the time of surgery.

Complications may result from the crown lengthening surgery involving the gums, jawbone, drugs or anesthetics. These complications include, but are not limited to, the following: post-surgical infection; bleeding; swelling; pain; bruising; numbness of the jaw, lip, tongue, chin or gum; jaw joint pain or muscle spasm; cracking or bruising of the corners of the mouth; restricted ability to open the mouth for several days or weeks; impact on speech; allergic reactions; accidental swallowing of foreign matter; transient (on rare occasion permanent) increased tooth looseness; and tooth sensitivity to hot, cold, sweet or acidic foods. The exact duration of any complication cannot be determined, and may be irreversible.

There is no method that will accurately predict or evaluate how the gum and bone will heal before the surgery is done. I understand that there may be a need for a second surgery if the initial results are not satisfactory.

Alternatives to Suggested Treatment: I understand that alternatives to crown lengthening surgery include no treatment. By electing no treatment, my dentist may not be able to place a proper restoration. Another alternative is extraction of the tooth/teeth involved.

Necessary Follow-Up Care and Self Care: I understand that it is important for me to continue to see my general dentist for routine care, as well as to get the crown lengthened tooth/teeth restored with a filling or crown after surgery has healed (approximately 3 to 6 weeks).

To my knowledge, I have told my periodontist about any pertinent medical conditions, allergies (especially to medications or sulfites) and medications I am taking, including over-the-counter medications such as aspirin.

In addition, I will need to come for post-op appointments following my surgery so that healing may be monitored and so my periodontist can evaluate and report on the outcome of surgery to my general dentist. Smoking, excessive alcohol intake or inadequate hygiene may adversely affect gum healing and may limit the successful outcome of my surgery.

