

# ANATOMICAL CROWN EXPOSURE AND CROWN LENGTHENING PROCEDURES



American Academy of Periodontology



Anatomical crown exposure and crown lengthening procedures are used when your periodontist or dentist must adjust the levels of gum tissue and sometimes bone around a tooth in order to create a new gum-to-tooth relationship. These procedures may be performed for esthetic or functional reasons.

## **Anatomical Crown Exposure**

Anatomical crown exposure is used on patients whose teeth appear too short, or their gum line is uneven or “gummy.”

During anatomical crown exposure, your dental professional removes excess gum tissue and sometimes bone tissue to expose more of the tooth crown, the white enamel-covered part of the tooth. Once the excess gum and tissue is removed, the gum line is then sculpted to create a more correct proportion between gum tissue and tooth surface. This can be done to just one

tooth to even out your gum or to several teeth to expose a natural and broad smile.

## **Crown Lengthening**

Your dentist or periodontist may recommend dental crown lengthening to make a restorative or cosmetic dental procedure possible. When a tooth is decayed or broken below the gum line or has insufficient tooth structure for a restoration, such as a crown or bridge, crown lengthening allows your periodontist or dentist to adjust the gum and bone level to expose more of the tooth so it can be restored.

Anatomical crown exposure and/or crown lengthening both provide a solution to optimize the health, appearance, and comfort of your teeth. These procedures can give you a beautiful new smile and boost your overall confidence, but most importantly, they can help improve your overall periodontal health.

Crown exposure and crown lengthening both require healthy gums for a successful procedure.

To help maintain healthy gums, you should:

- Brush your teeth twice a day to remove plaque and debris from around the teeth and gums
- Floss at least once a day to remove plaque and food particles from below the gum line
- See your periodontist or dentist for a comprehensive periodontal evaluation once a year to accurately screen for periodontal disease.