

#DM2002-33

“GUM GRAFTING”

SOME PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEIR TEETH APPEAR TOO SHORT, OR THEIR SMILE TOO 'GUMMY'. DENTISTS CAN SCULPT THE GUMLINE SO THE TEETH LOOK LONGER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY PATIENTS HAVE THE OPPOSITE CONCERN. DUE TO PERIODONTAL DISEASE, THEIR GUMS HAVE RECEDED, AND THEIR TEETH APPEAR TOO LONG.

WHEN THIS IS THE CASE, YOUR DENTIST MAY RECOMMEND GUM GRAFTING. GUM GRAFTING IS A SURGICAL PROCEDURE WHERE THE DENTIST REMOVES PART OF THE GUM FROM ONE AREA OF THE MOUTH. THE NEXT STEP IS TO GRAFT IT ONTO THE AREA OF THE GUMLINE THAT HAS RECEDED.

THIS PROCEDURE ALLOWS YOUR TEETH TO HAVE A MORE EVEN, HEALTHY LOOK. TYPICALLY, ONLY A LOCAL ANESTHETIC IS NEEDED AND AN OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN RELIEVER, LIKE ACETAMINOPHEN, IS RECOMMENDED AFTER TREATMENT.

IF YOU THINK YOUR TEETH LOOK TOO LONG, THEN GUM GRAFTING MAY BE AN OPTION FOR YOU. CONTACT YOUR DENTIST TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION.

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.