

#DM2002-34

“CROWN LENGTHENING”

SOME PEOPLE HAVE A SMILE THAT SEEMS TO BE MOSTLY GUMS WITH TINY TEETH. THAT'S WHEN CROWN LENGTHENING COMES INTO PLAY.

CROWN LENGTHENING IS A SURGICAL PROCEDURE THAT INVOLVES RECONTOURING THE GUM TISSUE OR SOMETIMES THE UNDERLYING BONE SURROUNDING THE TEETH, ALLOWING MORE OF THE TOOTH TO BE SEEN. IT CAN BE DONE FOR PRACTICAL OR ESTHETIC REASONS.

WHEN THE PATIENT'S TOOTH IS BADLY DECAYED OR THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TOOTH LEFT TO SUPPORT A RESTORATION, CROWN LENGTHENING MAY BE PERFORMED. IT EXPOSES MORE OF THE TOOTH SO THE TOOTH IS ABLE TO BE RESTORED.

ADDITIONALLY, SOME PATIENT'S MAY HAVE A GUMLINE THAT IS UNEVEN, CAUSING THE TEETH TO LOOK IRREGULAR. YOUR DENTIST MAY SUGGEST A CROWN LENGTHENING PROCEDURE TO GIVE YOUR TEETH A MORE EVEN APPEARANCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT CROWN LENGTHENING, BE SURE TO ASK YOUR DENTIST.

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