



Cosmetic Crown Lengthening in the Aesthetic Zone

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Purpose/Objectives

Recent years have seen an increasing demand for cosmetic dental treatment by the public. Cosmetic dentistry regularly features in the media and this has led to an increased awareness of cosmetic dental procedures among members of the public. Common cosmetic treatment procedures include professional tooth whitening, orthodontic treatment and provision of ceramic restorations such as crowns or veneers. However, all of these treatment modalities have little or no effect on the gingival tissues, which constitute an important part of the smile in many patients.

Materials/Methods

Cosmetic crown lengthening is a surgical technique that can be used to reduce the amount of periodontal tissue adjacent to the anterior teeth to enhance the smile. Crown lengthening can be used selectively around specific teeth to correct gingival abnormalities or asymmetry, or it can be used around all teeth in the aesthetic zone to improve the appearance of a 'gummy' smile. Crown lengthening techniques may be used as a stand-alone treatment modality or in order to preserve the biologic width during other restorative procedures. This requires proper osseous recontouring to re-establish the correct relationship between the periodontal tissues during treatment.

Results

A number of cases are presented to demonstrate the effects of cosmetic crown lengthening on the anterior teeth and to highlight the importance of assessing the periodontal tissues when considering cosmetic dental treatment.

Conclusion

Careful consideration should be given to the periodontal tissues during every assessment for cosmetic dental treatment. Cosmetic crown lengthening in the aesthetic zone can have a powerful effect on the dental appearance and should be considered in cases of gingival asymmetry, excess gingival display or as part of a comprehensive cosmetic restorative treatment plan.