



Patient Information Leaflet

Crown Lengthening Surgery

Cork University Dental
School & Hospital

This leaflet has been designed to explain what crown lengthening surgery involves and it contains answers to many frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer, or if you would like further information, please ask us.

What is Crown Lengthening Surgery?

Crown lengthening surgery is a surgical procedure to expose more of the tooth that is beneath the gum. This procedure is normally performed to make it easier to place a filling or crown.

What is involved in this procedure?

This minor surgical procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic and involves:

- Raising a flap of gum around the tooth/teeth being treated
- Removing bone and/or gum to expose more of the tooth/teeth
- Closing the gum with stitches, which will need to be removed in 5-7 days

Will the procedure be successful?

Crown lengthening is generally a predictable way of exposing more of your tooth but a successful outcome cannot always be guaranteed. Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, your surgeon may discover that the surgery is not possible once the gum flap has been raised. This would mean that the treatment plan would need to be changed. Occasionally further surgical procedures are necessary as a follow-up to the initial surgery. This will be explained to you by your dentist. If you are a smoker, this may also affect the outcome of your treatment.

What are the risks involved with this procedure?

The risks associated with crown lengthening surgery include, but are not limited to:

- Pain and discomfort during and after surgery
- Damage to adjacent teeth and structures
- Altered sensation/numbness if the nerves in the region are stretched or damaged. This may be temporary or permanent
- Post-operative pain, swelling, bruising, bleeding and infection
- Post-operative sensitivity of teeth at the surgical site is a common problem but this usually settles in a matter of weeks
- The gum may grow back

not placed until several months after the procedure. If there is an existing filling or crown on your tooth having the surgery, the margin of the filling or crown will become visible in your mouth. Further, as the gum shrinkage will reveal more of the root of the tooth, you should anticipate sensitivity to hot, cold or sweet food/drinks.

This leaflet is available online at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/patients/>