



PERIO POINTERS

Cosmetic Crown Lengthening

Treatment Options

Gingivoplasty- This is easy to do and I generally use radiosurgery as I can control how much I remove easily. This would be done if there is just too much gingiva and the teeth themselves are the correct height. I would use this if the teeth were not going to be restored. Often this is done after orthodontics is completed and we have too much gum tissue. I would not take the tissue past the CEJ; otherwise restorations will be required. Once the tissue has been removed we have to evaluate the proximity of the facial bone. If I still have a sulcus of 2-3 mm, the biologic width is adequate, if I do not then flaps and osseous resection is indicated.

Flaps and Osseous Resection- This is a much more involved procedure, particularly in terms of time, planning, post-operative discomfort and healing. The procedure will involve at least buccal flaps and osseous resection. I will place the osseous margin 3 mm apical to the length of teeth that you want. For example, if you want a 11.5 mm tooth, I will place the osseous margin at 14.5 mm from the incisal edge you have established. Let us say you were going to add 1 mm on the incisal edge then I will measure down and place the osseous level at 13.5mm so that the final tooth will be 11.5mm and you have 3 mm of biologic width. That is why it is so important to know where you want the incisal edge. Otherwise, I am making the tooth length based on what I think it should be, not on what you think it should be. It is worth noting that most of these cases will require a gingivoplasty revision prior to restoration. Also, I would not restore these cases for at least 3 months after crown lengthening.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 1 shows an asymmetric smile line. Using radiosurgery in figure 2 the tissue was changed. The full face photos on the right show the before and after. The restorative dentist did an excellent job.



Just a slight imperfection on the curvature of the tissue on the mesial of #8 and #9 corrected by radiosurgery.



This likewise is an example of asymmetry. This patient was unaware of the situation.

October 2007



Golf is harder than baseball. In golf you have to hit your foul balls.

Newsletter Spotlight

In the Midwest, the clinical crowns should be 10.5-11.5 mm on #6,8,9,and 11. The length of the laterals will be 2 mm less- 1 mm less on the incisal edge and 1 mm less at the apical portion.



