

FOREST ACRES DENTISTRY

Post-Operative Instructions for Crown Lengthening Procedure

Summary of Procedure

Today you had a crown-lengthening procedure. The purpose of this procedure is to remove a small amount of gums and/or bone to allow the tooth to be “longer”, so that there will be enough tooth structure available to hold on a permanent crown. This involves pushing the gums out of the way and removing a small amount of bone (usually a couple of millimeters). The gums are then held back in place by stitches.

What to Expect

You will experience soreness in the area. You may experience mild swelling. Usually the peak of soreness and swelling is 48 hours after the procedure.

Your stitches are able to resorb on their own, but we will see for 1 week and 3 week follow-up appointments from the procedure date. The stitches are usually removed by the Doctor at the 3 week follow-up appointment.

What You Should Do

Only brush with the post-surgical toothbrush provided to you at the procedure. Use this brush until your 7 day follow-up appointment, being especially gentle around the area the crown lengthening was done. Using a mouth rinse (such as Listerine) will help cleanse the area. You can also use a warm salt/water rinse as needed to bring comfort in the first few days.

You should eat soft foods (chicken, potatoes, soup, etc.) for 7 days.

Do NOT play with the stitches with your tongue or finger. Do NOT poke or prod the area with your finger, tooth brush, or any tool.

Follow the medicine protocol given to you following the procedure, which will vary by patient based on your health and other medications you may also take.

Issues of Concern

If you experience any of the following, please call our office (803-782-0965):

- Excessive pain or swelling that is not addressed by the medicines recommended or prescribed
- Bleeding that will not stop after gentle pressure is applied following 6 hours
- Fever over 100°F