

**Management of inadequate tooth structure in order
to accomplish predictable prosthetic dentistry**

Functional Crown Lengthening

Drs. Alan Rosenfeld and George Mandelaris
Diplomates, American Board of Periodontology

Functional Crown Lengthening

Inadequate tooth structure for a crown



- This photo shows a tooth that has fractured at the gum line. Clinical and Radiographic examination have determined that this tooth can be saved, but will need a crown. In order to provide the restorative dentist with sufficient tooth structure to which a crown can attach, functional crown lengthening periodontal surgery will need to be performed. This surgery is performed to lower the gum and bone levels thereby exposing more tooth structure.

- Also noted is the inflammation that has occurred around the gum tissue attaching to the tooth. This is called **biologic width violation (yellow arrow)** and can not be tolerated by the body. It results in red, bleeding gums (i.e. inflammation) which will not go away by excellent brushing and flossing. Crown lengthening surgery will also negate biologic width violation in the final crown, another added benefit.

Functional Crown Lengthening

Inadequate tooth structure for a crown



- This photo shows the tooth after functional crown lengthening surgery. The surgery has successfully accomplished exposure of more tooth structure to which the dentist has sufficient retention and resistance form for a crown.
- In addition, the longer/more exposed tooth structure allows the dentist to place the crown margin above the gum line so as not to impinge on the healthy and natural occurring gum seal around the tooth (i.e. the biologic width attachment).

Functional Crown Lengthening



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***The photos in this powerpoint were adapted from the American Academy of Periodontology educational pamphlet on functional crown lengthening **