

Commonly Asked Questions:

- Q:** How long does esthetic gingival recontouring take?
- A:** The visit to perform esthetic gingival recontouring is about 50 minutes long. The stitches are removed approximately one week later in a 5-10 minute visit. One or two 10 minute check-ups may be scheduled to ensure that area is ready for restoration by the dentist.
- Q:** Will esthetic gingival recontouring hurt?
- A:** Only “novocaine” is necessary to perform esthetic gingival recontouring . During the visit you will feel nothing once the area has been numbed. When the “novocaine” wears off, there will be some mild discomfort. Medication will be prescribed to control any discomfort you might experience. This procedure will not cause you to miss work, etc.
- Q:** What is the cost of esthetic gingival recontouring ?
- A:** The cost of esthetic gingival recontouring will vary with the situation. However, your periodontist will ensure that this is discussed with you thoroughly before proceeding with treatment.
- Q:** How well will esthetic gingival recontouring work?
- A:** Esthetic gingival recontouring is highly predictable. If the procedure is carried out correctly, the end result is a healthy, more esthetic appearance.

**Remember, if you have any questions
ask your periodontist.**

Esthetic Gingival Recontouring



WHAT IS ESTHETIC GINGIVAL RECONTOURING?

Improving Your Periodontal Health and Maximizing Your Esthetic Potential

Permanent teeth erupt until they contact opposing teeth. Once this contact is made and tooth position is established, the gum continues to move down, exposing more of the tooth until reaching the junction of the crown and root. This movement is why permanent teeth seem to get longer as children pass through adolescence.

In some instances, the tissue does not move down the permanent tooth as it should. While we do not know the cause of this phenomenon, the result is the presence of excess gum over the crowns of the teeth, and is called incomplete passive eruption. This excess gum does not attach to the enamel of the tooth crown, and results in a potential gum pocket which may trap bacteria and lead to periodontal problems.

In addition to potential periodontal health problems, incomplete passive eruption results in an unnatural, short tooth appearance, and a gummy smile.

Fortunately, incomplete passive eruption is easily treated by gently reshaping the gum and the bone surrounding the teeth to position the gum at a more natural and esthetic level. Following such treatment the gum pockets are eliminated, the gum is placed where the crown and the root of the tooth meet, and esthetics is dramatically improved.



Figure 1: Bonding was placed on the front teeth without first eliminating the incomplete passive eruption. Note the short unnatural appearance of the bonded teeth.

Figure 2: Following elimination of the incomplete passive eruption and placement of new bonded restorations, both the health and esthetics of the patient are significantly improved.

