



Crown Lengthening Needs and Outcomes in Adults Attending a Predoctoral Clinic

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ABSTRACT In this retrospective study of 5,536 patients admitted over four years at a predoctoral dental clinic for comprehensive care, general dentists identified crown lengthening needs in 584 patients and 760 teeth. Only 51 patients and 68 teeth actually received crown lengthening procedures. For the other cases, patients discontinued treatment or chose extraction or restoration without crown lengthening procedures. Teeth that received crown lengthening procedures were most likely restored and functioning for at least one year.

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Conflict of Interest
Disclosure: None reported.

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Disclosure: None reported.

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Disclosure: None reported.

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Disclosure: None reported.

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Crown lengthening procedures are frequently performed by periodontists, but little is known about the typical patient and tooth receiving crown lengthening procedures. While a current literature search in December 2015 on “crown lengthening” produced 624 articles listed in the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed database, most articles on crown lengthening describe unusual cases or review surgical and diagnostic methods. Clinical research studies on crown lengthening do not reveal specific characteristics of patients or teeth that require crown lengthening or are limited to a subset of teeth, such as mandibular molars or maxillary anterior teeth.¹⁻⁶

Given the paucity of descriptive research on this subject, this study aimed to determine the frequency of crown lengthening needs and procedures performed in adults seeking comprehensive

dental care at a predoctoral dental clinic. This study also aimed to determine the characteristics of these patients and teeth requiring crown lengthening procedures for restoration and radiographic characteristics most likely associated with extraction of these teeth. Finally, this study also tested if crown lengthening procedures actually did improve restorative success compared to teeth that were originally thought to require crown lengthening procedures, but were restored without these procedures.

Materials and Methods

Patients

This retrospective study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, Calif., and performed at the Dental Center of the Western University of Health Sciences. The Dental Center is a comprehensive dental clinic where