Gummy Smile Correction with Lip Repositioning

Achieve a More Balanced, Beautiful Smile

A beautiful smile is about more than just healthy teeth—it is also about achieving harmony between the teeth, gums, and lips. While a small amount of gum tissue naturally shows when smiling, excessive gingival display, commonly known as a **"gummy smile,"** can make some individuals feel self-conscious about their appearance.

A gummy smile may result from several factors, including a hyperactive or elevated upper lip, excessive gum tissue, altered tooth eruption, or differences in jaw development.

Traditionally, correcting certain types of excessive gingival display required extensive procedures, such as orthognathic (jaw) surgery. However, for appropriately selected patients, **lip repositioning surgery offers a minimally invasive alternative** that can significantly improve smile aesthetics without the complexity and extended recovery associated with jaw surgery.

Lip repositioning is designed to reduce excessive gum exposure by limiting the upward movement of the upper lip when smiling. The result is a more balanced, natural-looking smile that enhances facial harmony and confidence.

Benefits of Lip Repositioning Surgery

Lip repositioning offers several advantages for patients seeking to improve their smile:

- **Reduces excessive gum display** for a more balanced, attractive smile.
- **Enhances smile proportions** by creating better harmony between the teeth, gums, and upper lip.
- **May create the appearance of a fuller upper lip** by reducing excessive upward movement during smiling.
- **Minimally invasive procedure** typically performed under local anesthesia.
- **Short recovery period** with relatively little downtime compared with more extensive jaw surgery.
- **No visible external scarring**, as the incision is made inside the upper lip.
- **Immediate improvement in gum display**, with final results becoming more apparent as healing progresses.
- **Improved smile confidence** for patients who feel self-conscious about excessive gum exposure.

Who Is a Good Candidate for Lip Repositioning?

Lip repositioning may be an excellent option for individuals who are unhappy with the amount of gum tissue visible when they smile.

Ideal candidates typically have:

- Excessive gingival display when smiling.
- A hyperactive upper lip that elevates too far during smiling.
- Healthy teeth and periodontal tissues.
- Good overall health and realistic expectations regarding treatment outcomes.
- A desire for a less invasive alternative to more extensive surgical correction.

Understanding Gingival Display

The amount of gum tissue visible during smiling can vary considerably among individuals.

- **1–3 mm:** Mild gingival display.
- **4–6 mm:** Moderate gingival display.
- **7 mm or more:** Significant gingival display.

The amount of visible gum tissue alone does not determine whether treatment is necessary or which procedure is most appropriate.

Excessive gingival display may be caused by altered passive eruption, excessive vertical growth of the upper jaw, a short upper lip, or hyperactivity of the muscles responsible for elevating the lip.

Because each cause requires a different treatment approach, a comprehensive evaluation is essential.

During your consultation, we will carefully assess your smile, lip mobility, tooth proportions, gum levels, and facial anatomy to determine whether lip repositioning is the most appropriate treatment for your aesthetic goals.

The Lip Repositioning Procedure

Lip repositioning is a minimally invasive periodontal surgical procedure designed to reduce excessive upward movement of the upper lip during smiling.

The procedure is typically performed in the office under local anesthesia, with sedation options considered when appropriate.

During surgery, a carefully measured strip of tissue is removed from the inside of the upper lip, where it meets the gum tissue. The remaining tissue is then repositioned and secured with sutures, effectively limiting how far the upper lip rises when smiling.

By reducing excessive lip elevation, the procedure allows less gum tissue to show, creating a more harmonious relationship between the upper lip, teeth, and gums.

The procedure generally takes approximately 30–45 minutes, depending on the individual case.

Because all incisions are made inside the mouth, there are no visible external scars.

Recovery and Results

One of the greatest advantages of lip repositioning is its relatively short recovery period.

Patients may notice an improvement in their smile immediately following surgery, although temporary swelling, tightness, and mild discomfort are expected during the initial healing period.

Most patients can resume many normal daily activities within a few days, although strenuous activity, excessive lip movement, and certain foods may need to be avoided during early healing.

As swelling subsides and the tissues heal, the smile gradually takes on a more natural and balanced appearance.

While many patients achieve satisfactory results with a single procedure, outcomes vary depending on individual anatomy, lip mobility, and healing. Some degree of relapse or recurrence of excessive gingival display is possible over time.

Rediscover Your Confidence in Your Smile

Your smile should reflect your personality and confidence—not be something you feel the need to hide.

Lip repositioning offers an effective, minimally invasive treatment option for selected patients seeking to reduce excessive gum display and achieve a more balanced smile.

Schedule a consultation to discover whether lip repositioning can help you achieve the natural, confident smile you deserve.