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WHY IS A FIBROTOMY NECESSARY?

An important consideration in the long-term results of your orthodontic treatment is retention, or the question of how we can insure that the teeth do not return to their original position. Rotated or "crooked" teeth present problems in that they can rotate again after the orthodontics is complete. We believe the major cause of the rotation following removal of the appliances is the gum tissue. Within the gum there are elastic-like fibers, which attach the gum tissues to the tooth and bone. These fibers appear to have a "memory", and if the fibers are not changed, they can put pressure on the tooth to return to its originally rotated position.

PROCEDURE OF A FIBROTOMY

In order to prevent relapse, a fibrotomy is necessary to alter the memory of the gum fibers. The procedure is completed under a local anesthetic (similar to a filling being placed). An instrument is then placed into the space between the tooth and gum, the fibers are severed and the gum tissue is curetted. It is similar to a very thorough teeth cleaning. Once the anesthetic is administered there is no discomfort during the procedure and very little following the procedure. Aspirin or acetaminophen (Tylenol) usually helps with the soreness that is felt when the numbness wears off. Strenuous exercise is contraindicated the day following the procedure.

The procedure is performed by a Periodontist and our office will be happy to refer you when the time is appropriate. Please call us if you have any further questions.