

**Get the best**

**orthodontic result.**



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FRENECTOMY,  
FIBEROTOMY &  
GINGIVOPLASTY

[aaoinfo.org](http://aaoinfo.org)

# PROCEDURES

# COMMON GUM PROCEDURES

## FRENECTOMY:

This procedure removes or repositions a portion of the gum tissue that connects the lips, cheeks or tongue to the gums (the frenum). A gap between the upper two front teeth may be caused by this extra tissue. Removing it may allow the gap to close and stabilizes the teeth, and it may help tongue function.

## FIBEROTOMY:

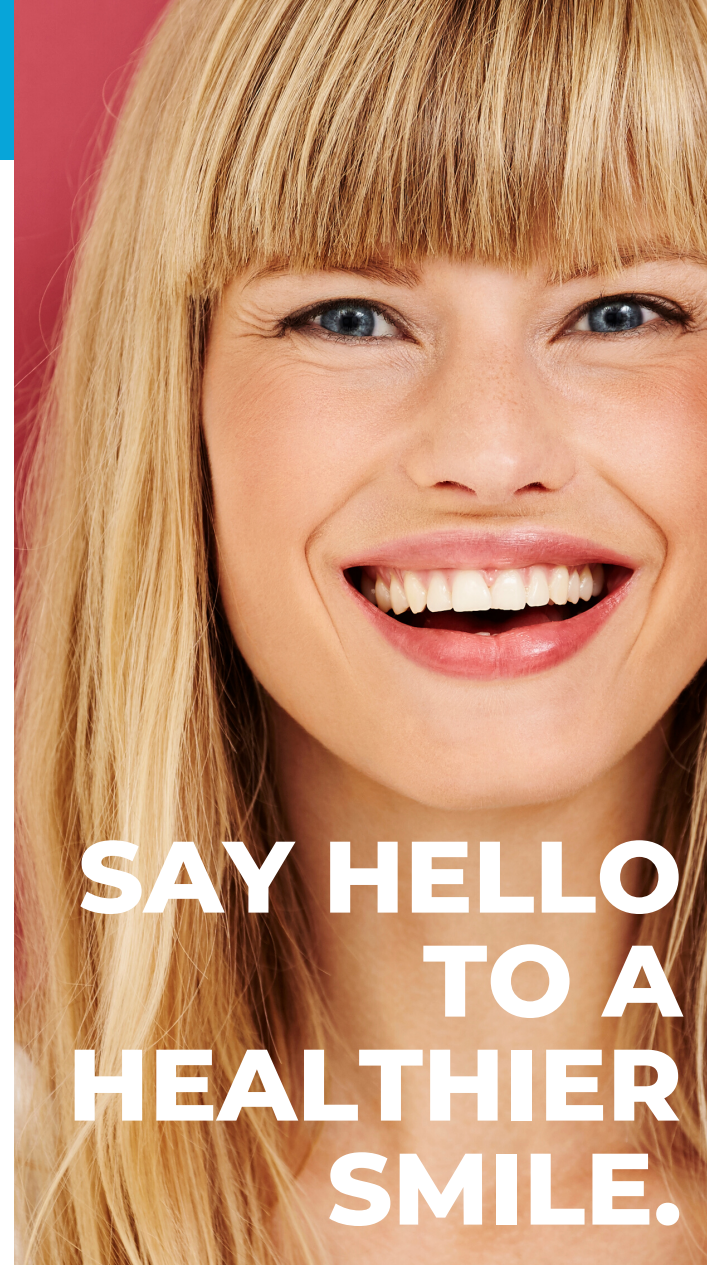
This procedure releases tiny elastic fibers that cause the teeth to turn, or rotate, significantly. Patients whose teeth had a high degree of rotation before orthodontic treatment may need this procedure to avoid relapse. Retainers still will be needed to maintain position of teeth.

## GINGIVOPLASTY:

This procedure may be performed separate from, or often, at the same time as a frenctomy or fiberotomy. This procedure removes or sculpts gum tissue to uncover normal tooth surfaces that were concealed by excess gum tissue, correcting a "gummy" smile, or it balances uneven gum heights for a more symmetrical appearance.

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

Sometimes orthodontic treatment alone is not enough. These procedures may require a team approach to care. Interdisciplinary treatment that includes the patient's dentist and other dental specialists may yield the best results. Your orthodontist will advise you if this is necessary.



**SAY HELLO  
TO A  
HEALTHIER  
SMILE.**

*Orthodontists receive an additional two-to-three years of specialized education beyond dental school to learn the proper way to align teeth and correct bites. Only those who successfully complete this formal education may call themselves orthodontists, and only orthodontists can be members of the American Association of Orthodontists. Learn more: [aaoinfo.org](http://aaoinfo.org).*