

American Dental Association Classifications

(based primarily on attachment loss)

- Case Type I: Gingivitis: no attachment loss, bleeding may or may not be present
- Case Type II: Early Periodontitis: pocket depths or attachment loss 3 - 4 mm
BOP may be present
localized areas of recession
possible class I furcation involvement
- Case Type III: Moderate Periodontitis: pocket depths or attachment loss 4 - 6mm
BOP
Grade I or II furcation
class I mobility
- Case Type IV: Advanced Periodontitis: pocket depths or attachment loss over 6mm
BOP
Grade II or III furcation
mobility Class II or III

Mobility Classifications

Mobility is an indicator of bone loss around the tooth. In order to accurately evaluate mobility, two non-working ends of the dental instruments (i.e., the mirror handle and the probe handle) are pressed on the buccal and lingual surfaces of the tooth. The amount of movement is measured and classified as:

Class O	Complete tooth stability.
Class I	Tooth moves 1/2 mm buccally and 1/2 mm lingually.
Class II	All degrees between Class I and Class III mobility of up to 1mm in any direction.
Class III	Tooth is terminally mobile. Greater than 1 mm in any direction and is depressible in the socket.

Furcation Classifications

Furcation involvement indicates a serious periodontal condition that if detected early is treatable with guided tissue regeneration.

Class I	The furcation can be probed to a depth of 3 mm. Using the probe, you can feel the anatomic fluting between the roots, but cannot engage the roof of the furcation.
Class II	The furcation can be probed to a depth greater than 3 mm, but not through and through.
Class III	The furcation can be completely probed through and through subgingivally.
Class III+	Naber's probe can go halfway across the tooth.
Class IV	The probe goes completely through the furcation and is supragingival.

Furcation probing is significant because most teeth lost to periodontal disease are multi-rooted teeth. It is absolutely essential to evaluate the furcation of these teeth. The classification of the involvement affects the choice of instruments that are used for debridement. The goal is to get the probe under the furcation, classify it and chart it.