

# Periodontal Disease

also called Gum Disease

## Warning Signs

- gums that bleed when you brush or floss
- gums that are red, swollen, puffy, or tender
- gums that no longer hug your teeth tightly
- bad breath that doesn't go away
- pus between your teeth and gums
- feeling that your teeth are loose
- a change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite
- a change in the way your partial dentures fit

You may notice one or some of these warning signs, or you may not notice any warning signs at all.

## X-Rays

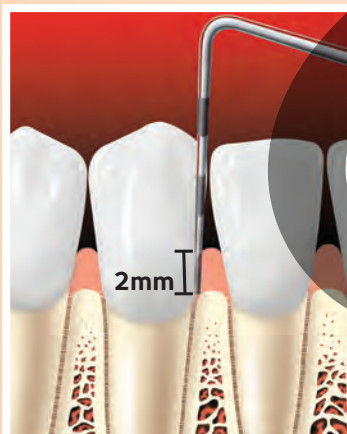


X-ray showing supporting bone.

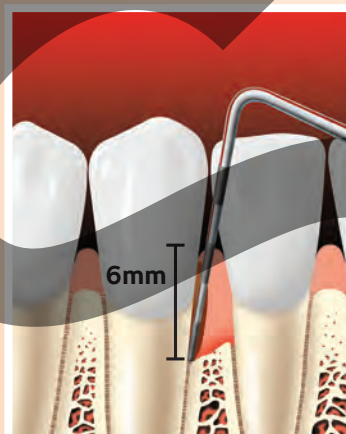


X-ray showing periodontal bone loss.

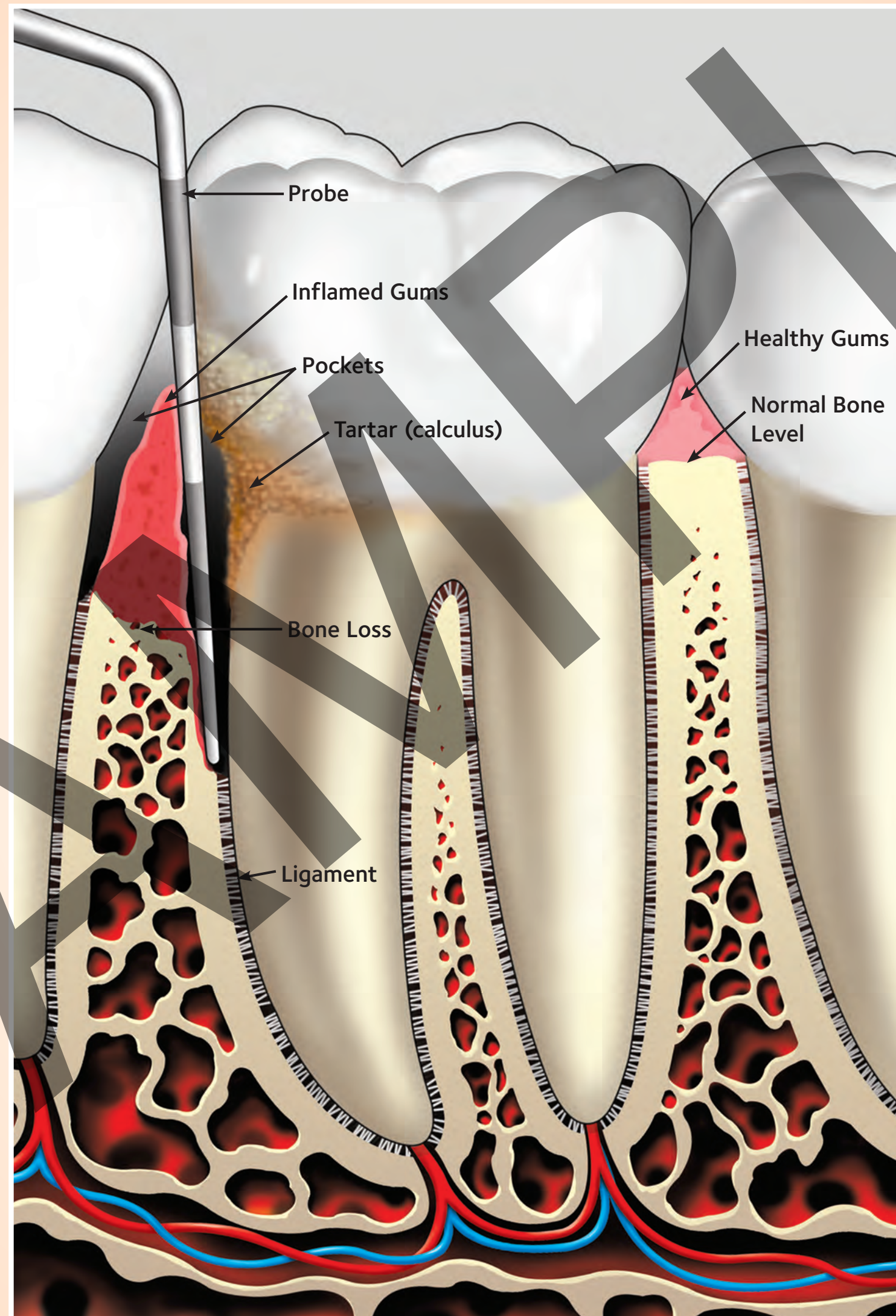
## Periodontal Probing



Periodontal probe of healthy gums.



Periodontal probe showing space forming between the tooth root and the gums. Dentists call this a **pocket**.



**i** Treating gum disease is most successful in the early stages and can help prevent tooth loss.

## Stages of Periodontal Disease



### Normal, Healthy Gums

Teeth are held firmly in place by the gums, bone and periodontal ligament. Gums hug the teeth and there is little or no buildup of plaque on them.



### Gingivitis

Plaque bacteria irritate the gums, making them tender, inflamed and likely to bleed. You can also have gingivitis and not have any signs of it. Image © Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.



### Periodontitis

Pockets form between teeth and gums, collecting bacteria that attack tissue and bone. Without treatment, teeth may be lost to the disease.