**CALCULATING CAL IN THE PRESENCE OF RECESSSION OF THE GINGIVAL MARGIN**

When recession of the gingival margin is present, the CAL is calculated by **adding** the probing depth to the gingival margin level.

**Example:**
- Probing depth measurement: 4 mm
- Gingival margin level: +2 mm*
- Clinical attachment loss: 6 mm
- * = 2 mm of tissue needs **to be added** for the gingival margin to be at its normal level.

**CALCULATING CAL WHEN THE GINGIVAL MARGIN COVERS THE CEJ**

When the gingival margin is coronal to the CEJ, the CAL is calculated by **subtracting** the gingival margin level from the probing depth.

**Example:**
- Probing depth measurement: 9 mm
- Gingival margin level: -3 mm*
- Clinical attachment loss: 6 mm
- * = 3 mm of tissue needs **to be taken away** for the gingival margin to be at its normal level.

**CALCULATING CAL WHEN THE GINGIVAL MARGIN IS AT THE NORMAL LEVEL**

When the gingival margin is slightly coronal to the CEJ, no calculations are needed since the probing depth and the clinical attachment level are equal.

**Example:**
- Probing depth measurement: 6 mm
- Gingival margin level: 0 mm*
- Clinical attachment loss: 6 mm
- * = gingival margin is at the normal level; therefore no gingival tissue needs to be added or taken away (0).