

CLINICAL ATTACHMENT LOSS, CALCULATION

CALCULATING CAL IN THE PRESENCE OF RESSION 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.

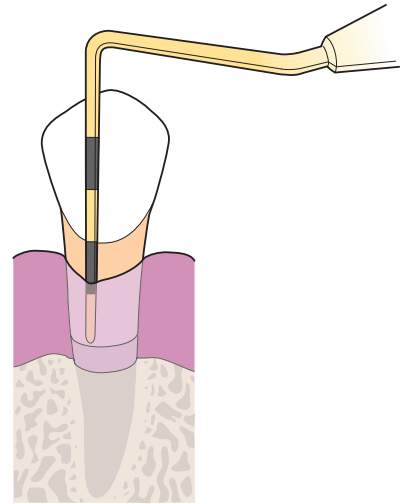
Example:

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.

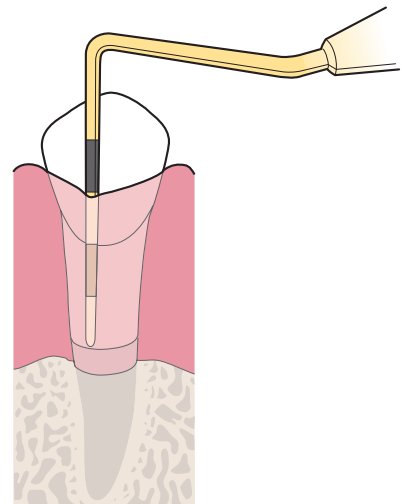
Example:

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.

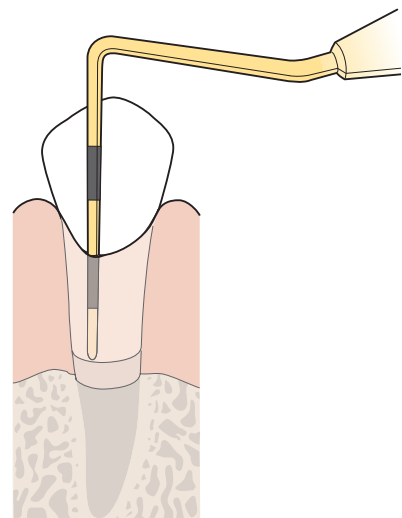
Example:

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).



(Images used with permission: <http://lww.com>)