

6 Diagnosis

Gingivitis:

- Bright red gums.
- Swollen gums (especially between teeth).
- Gums bleed when probed gently.
- There may or may not be calculus present.

Periodontitis:

- Greater than 4mm probing depth of sulcus.
- May have calculus present.
- Gums are NOT tight and pink. They may be darker red, or slightly blue.
- Gums may be puffy, loose, or soft.

Decay (Cavities):

- Enamel dissolving, and breaking into dentin.
- NO pain to tapping on tooth.
- NO pus from tooth.
- NO history of pain to cold that lasts a long time.
- NO history of spontaneous pain.
- May have pain to sweets.
- May have pain to cold that lasts only a few seconds.

Pulpitis:

- Pain to tapping on tooth.
- History of pain that lasts longer than 10 seconds to cold.
- History of tooth hurting spontaneously.
- Most likely the tooth has a large cavity.

Abscess (from tooth)

- Large cavity into pulp.
- Pain to *palpation*.
- Possible spontaneous pain.
- Possible swelling near tooth.

Abscess (from gums)

- Likely greater than 4mm probing depth around tooth.
- Likely pus from sulcus.
- Possible swelling in area of pain.
- Dull or severe pain which may be difficult to pinpoint.
- Tooth may be mobile.
- Possible pain to palpation.