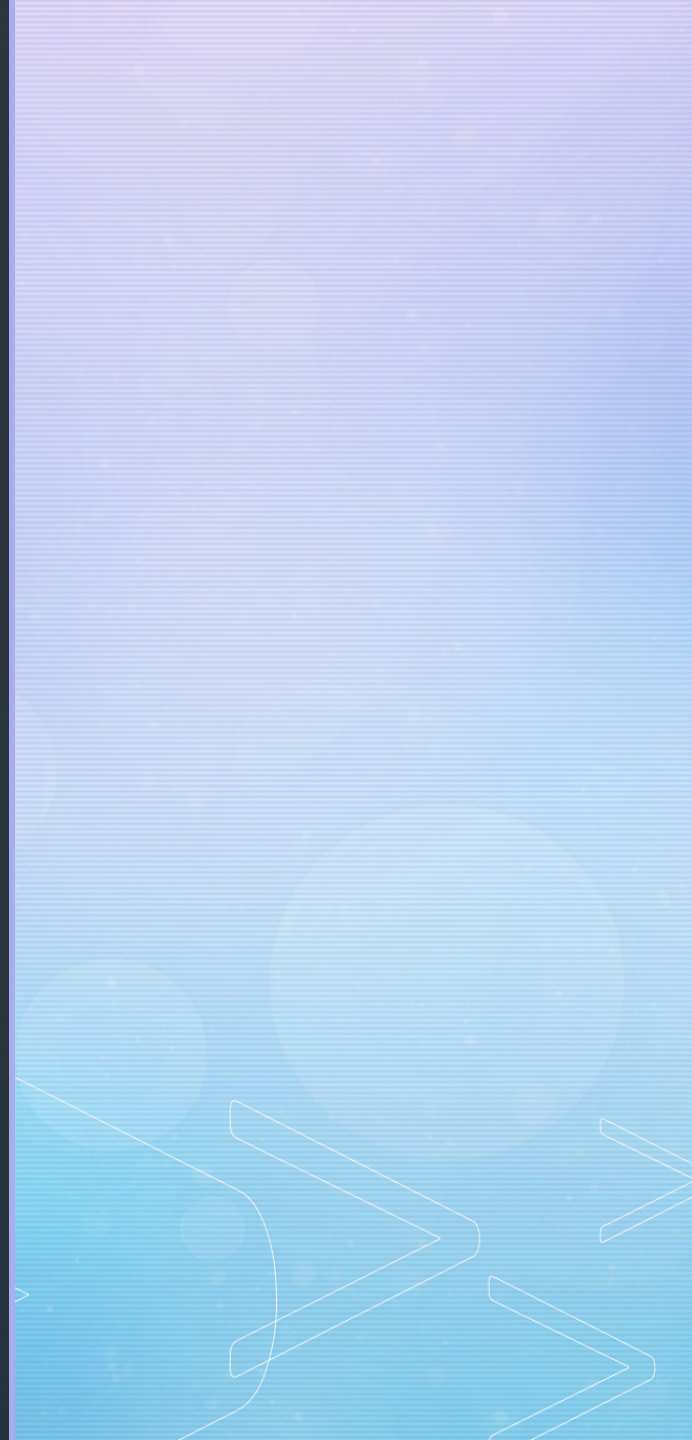


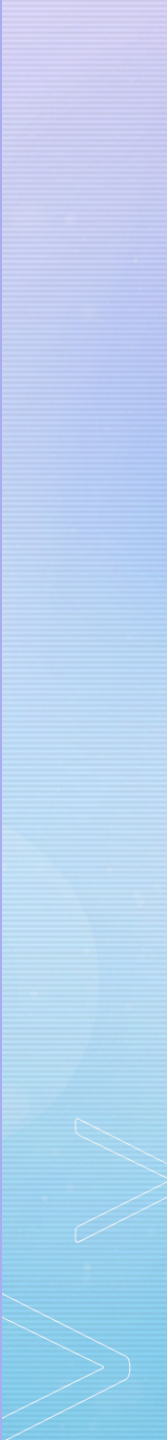
# Calculus

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# What is calculus?

- Initially, after we chew food, there will be some leftover food debris around and between the teeth. This accumulation of food become plaque soon after. Overtime, if these food debris are not completely removed by toothbrushing and flossing, they will attach onto the surface of the teeth and slowly they will become hardened or calcified. They become hardened because the calcium in the saliva will calcify these food debris making them more difficult to removal.
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# Detection of calculus

- Small amounts of calculus are usually not detected visually. They require dental hygienist to use a special instrument to detect their presence if they are located within the gingiva pocket. Sometimes, if the calculus becomes big enough, it will show up in the x-ray radiograph image as a radiopaque projection of the teeth.

## Interpretation of calculus in a radiograph

- Like mentioned before, if the calculus is big enough a radiographic image will show it. The visibility of calculus in a radiograph depends on the density of the calculus and the location. Calculus appears as a dense radiopaque projections in a radiograph.



- These images show supragingival calculus on the mandibular lingual anterior teeth. This calculus can be diagnosed clinically and depending on the density will show up in a radiograph.

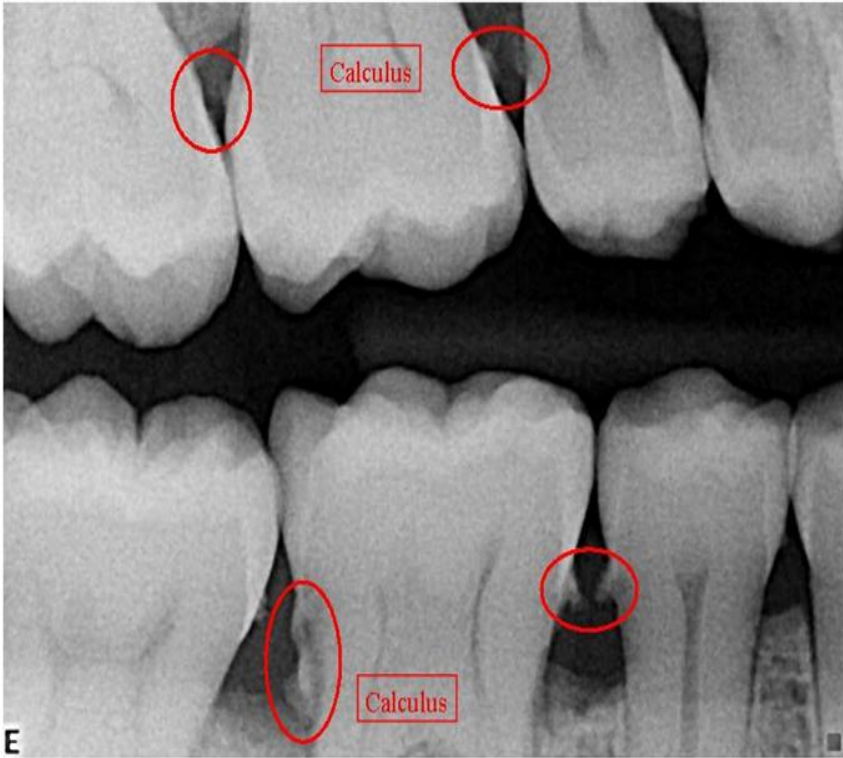


▶ In contrast with the previous images. These periapical radiographs let us see the calcification of plaque (calculus) in the anterior mandibular lingual.

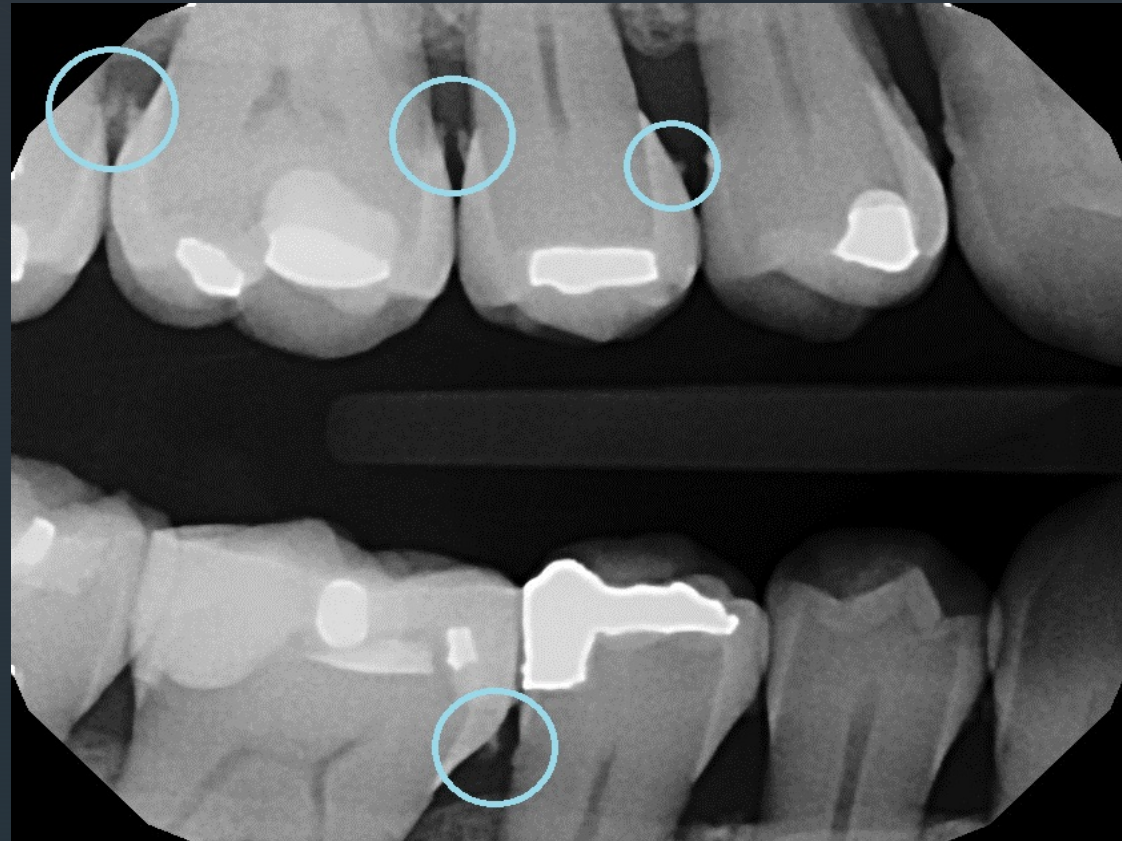




These radiographic bitewings of the posterior teeth, show the presence of calculus.

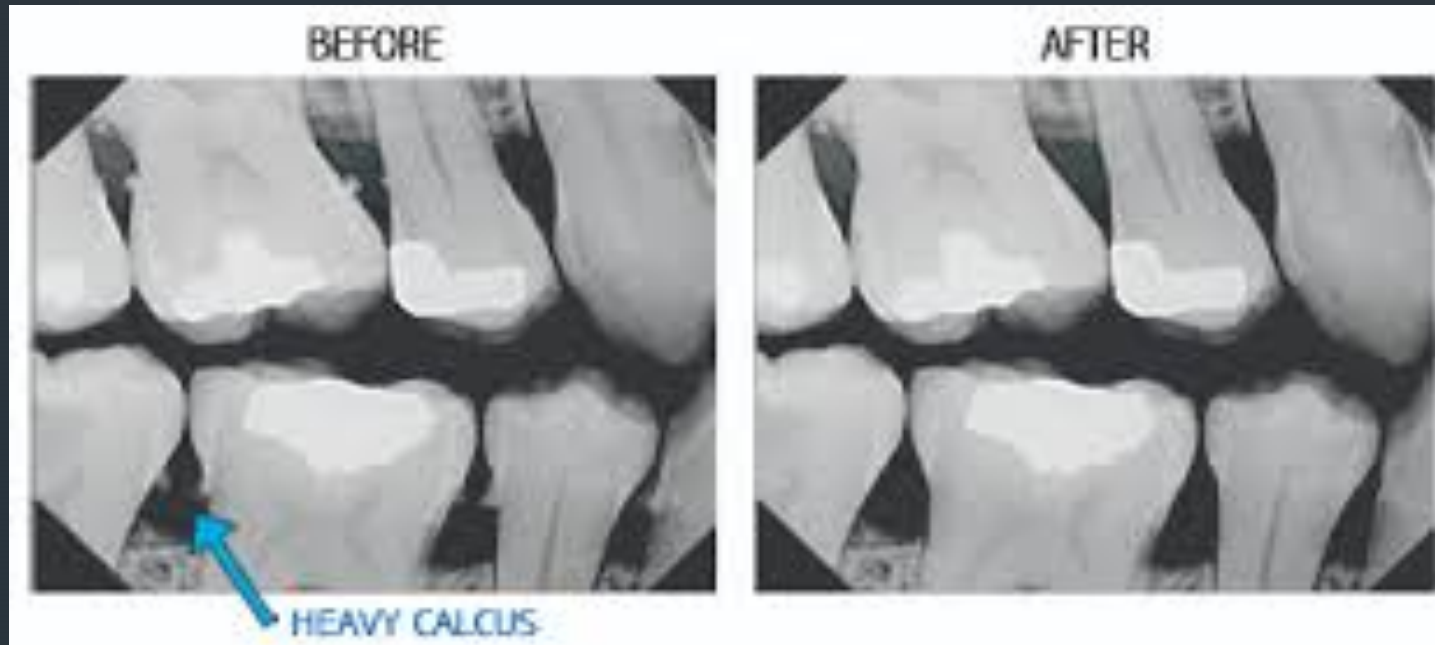


- ▶ The initiation of calcification and the rate of calculus formation varies from person to person





Highly calcified interproximal calculus deposits are seen as radiopaque projections in a radiograph



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