



Calculus

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DEN1218 Section E612

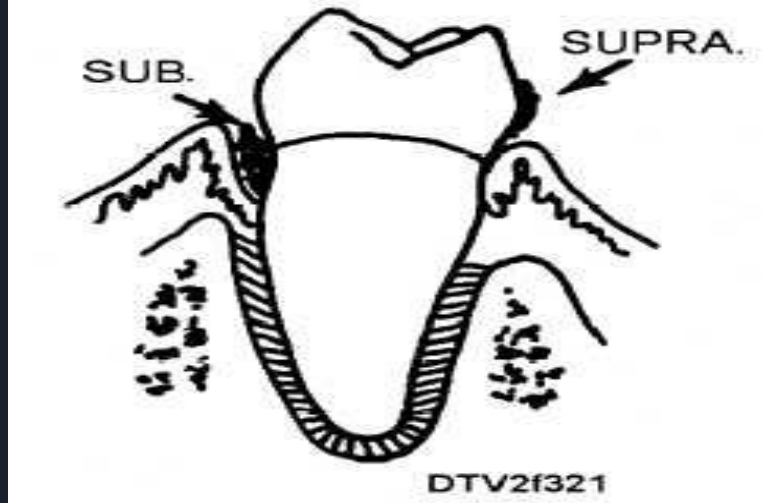


What is Calculus?

- Hardened biofilm (plaque)
- It forms when plaque that has remained in the oral cavity calcifies.
- When not removed, it becomes detrimental to the gingival health because it serves as a reservoir for additional plaque accumulation and can push the epithelial tissue away from the tooth causing recession and bone loss.
- Appears radiopaque on radiographs

Types of Calculus

- Calculus is classified by its location on the tooth surface.
- Supragingival calculus is found on the clinical crown coronal to the gingival margin.
- Subgingival calculus is found on the clinical crown apical to the gingival margin.



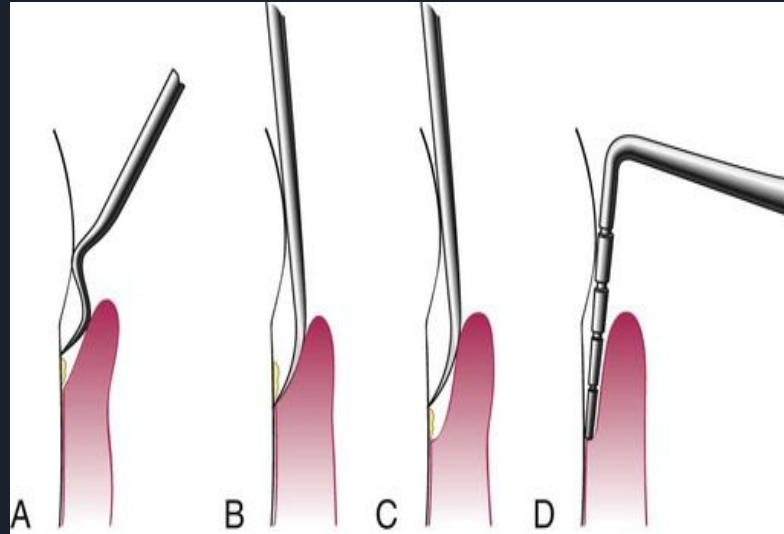
Supragingival Calculus


- Appears white, creamy yellow or gray in color
- Consistency is somewhat hard
- Can be seen clinically



Subgingival Calculus

- Appears dark green, brown or black in color
- More accurately detected clinically using an explorer rather than radiographically






Calculus on mandibular
central incisors appearing
as tiny projections




Calculus on mandibular
central incisors appearing
nodular



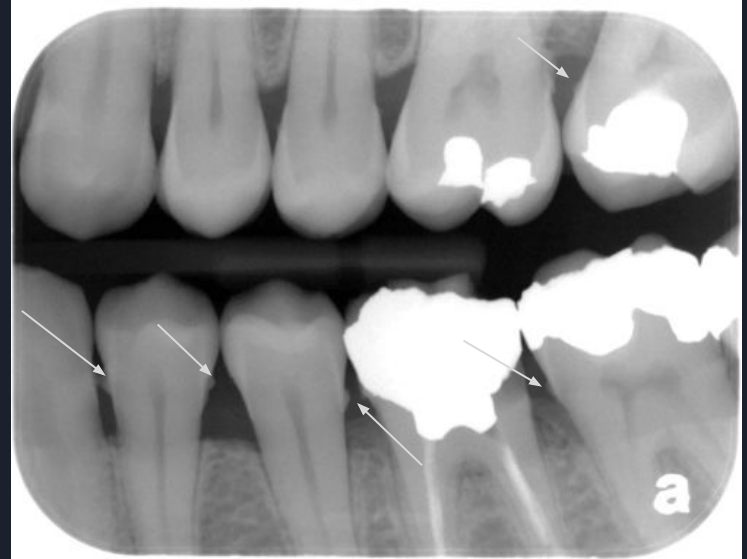


Calculus shown on the
mandibular second molar





Calculus found on multiple teeth as shown on a bite-wing





References

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