



# Three Steps to Staging and Grading a Patient

## Step 1: Initial Case Overview to Assess Disease

Screen:

- Full mouth probing depths
- Full mouth radiographs
- Missing teeth

Mild to moderate periodontitis will typically be either Stage I or Stage II

Severe to very severe periodontitis will typically be either Stage III or Stage IV

## Step 2: Establish Stage

For mild to moderate periodontitis (typically Stage I or Stage II):

- Confirm clinical attachment loss (CAL)
- Rule out non-periodontitis causes of CAL (e.g., cervical restorations or caries, root fractures, CAL due to traumatic causes)
- Determine maximum CAL or radiographic bone loss (RBL)
- Confirm RBL patterns

For moderate to severe periodontitis (typically Stage III or Stage IV):

- Determine maximum CAL or RBL
- Confirm RBL patterns
- Assess tooth loss due to periodontitis
- Evaluate case complexity factors (e.g., severe CAL frequency, surgical challenges)

## Step 3: Establish Grade

- Calculate RBL (% of root length x 100) divided by age
- Assess risk factors (e.g., smoking, diabetes)
- Measure response to scaling and root planing and plaque control
- Assess expected rate of bone loss
- Conduct detailed risk assessment
- Account for medical and systemic inflammatory considerations