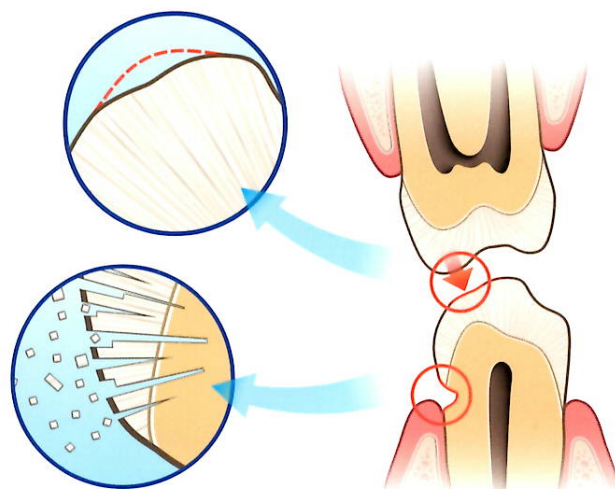
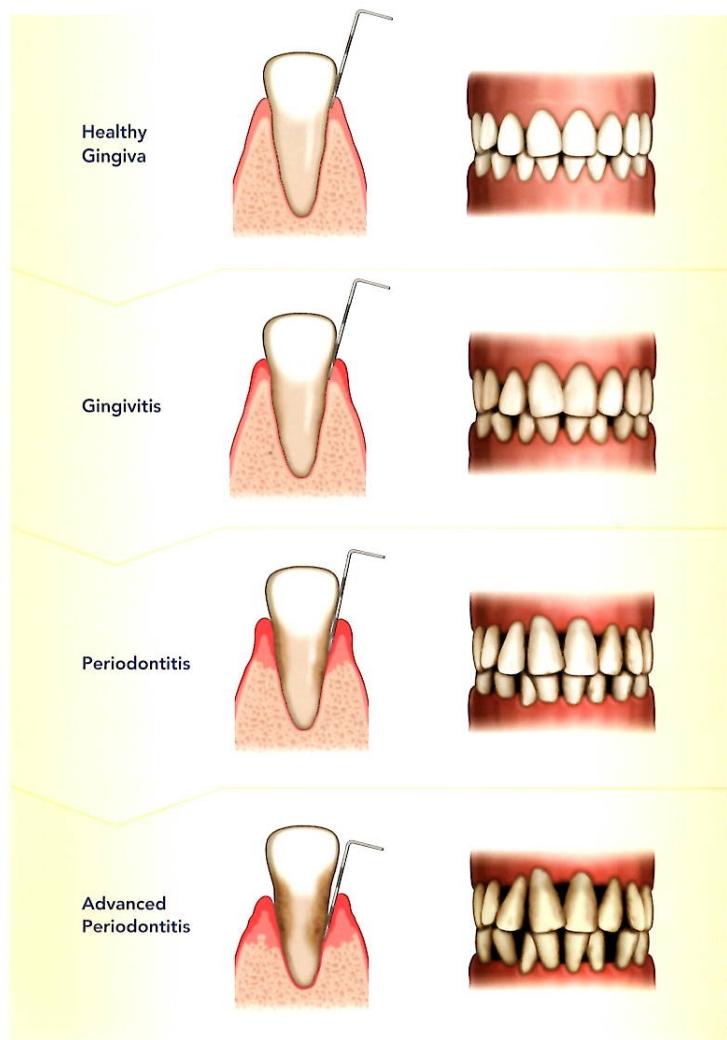


# Malocclusion and Periodontal Disease

Malocclusion affects 74% of American adults.<sup>1</sup> If you have malocclusion, it may affect your periodontal health, because it is difficult to remove plaque when teeth are not aligned. Periodontal disease can begin as gum redness or bleeding while brushing your teeth or using dental floss, and you may notice halitosis, or bad breath. If not treated, gum inflammation can become worse, leading to soft tissue damage, receding gums, the formation of pockets between teeth and gums, bone loss, and eventually tooth loss.

## THE PROGRESSION OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE

When teeth are crowded, plaque with harmful bacteria can attach to the tooth surface down to the bottom of the pocket.<sup>2,3</sup> Plaque can be difficult to remove from crowded areas because it is difficult to brush and floss here. Bacteria can cause gum tissue surrounding the tooth to degrade, and if not treated, result in bone loss.



## WEAR AND TRAUMA

Poorly aligned teeth can also create unnatural stress and pressure on teeth and jaws. Teeth that are subject to excessive pressure can develop chipping and notches at the gum line called abfractions. Premature wear can lead to poor root support, loose teeth and eventually, tooth loss.<sup>1</sup>

## Straight Teeth are Healthier Teeth

Straight, properly aligned teeth can help you avoid the ne

### HEALTHIER GUMS

Properly aligned teeth are easier to brush and floss than crowded or crooked teeth. Properly positioned teeth can help gums "fit" more tightly around them, which may lead to better periodontal health.<sup>4</sup>

### IMPROVED HYGIENE

With good oral hygiene, the chances of having plaque retention, tooth decay, and periodontal disease can be reduced.