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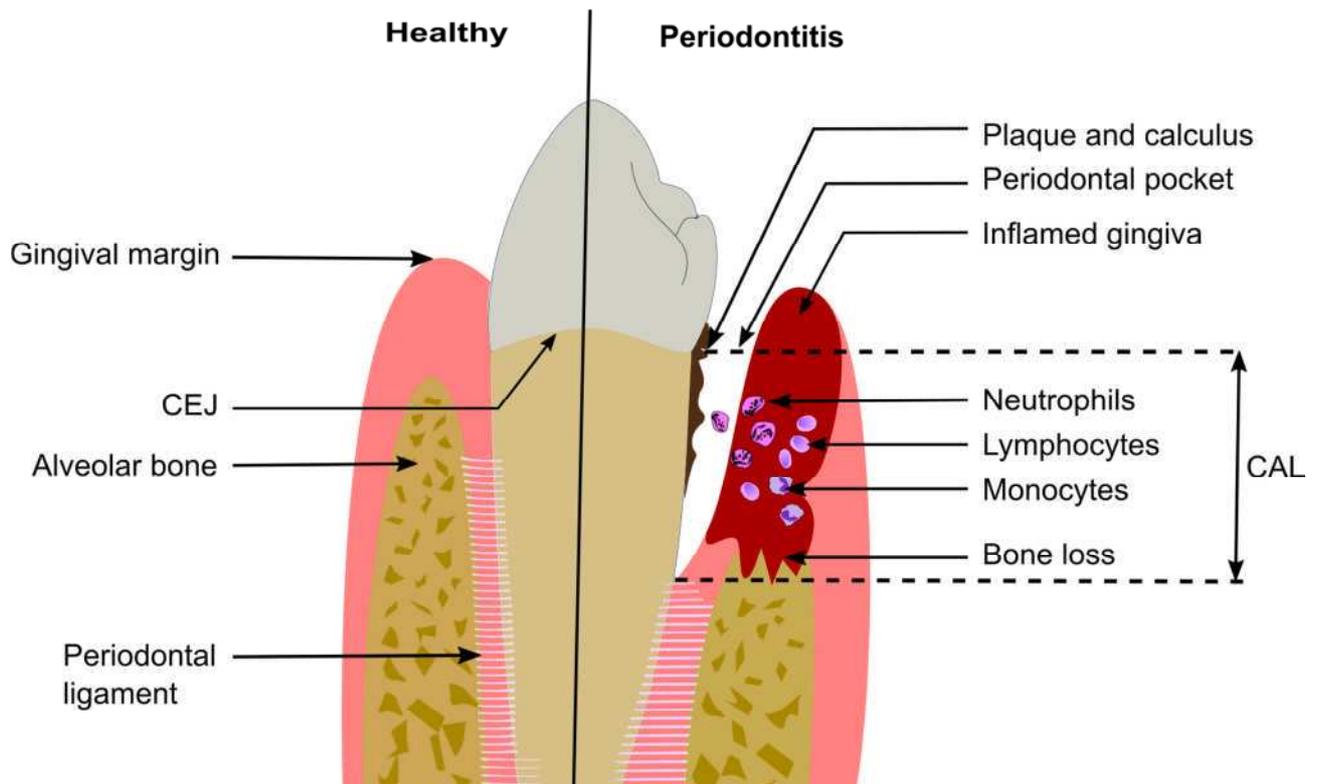


Figure. Diagram comparing a periodontally healthy site (left panel) with a periodontitis site (right panel). Dental plaque and calculus accumulate at the tooth-gingiva margin, and extend subgingivally. The activities of subgingival plaque and the host defences lead to inflammation and tissue damage. The gingiva becomes detached from the root surface, forming a periodontal pocket, which is highly anaerobic and allows further expansion and development of subgingival plaque. Increasingly severe destruction of tissues results in the gradual recession of the supporting alveolar bone. Clinical attachment loss (CAL) is the distance from the cemento-enamel junction (CEJ) to the base of the periodontal pocket measured using a periodontal probe.