# Classifications of Furcation Involvement

Furcation involvement should be recorded on a periodontal chart using a scale that quantifies the severity (or extent) of the furcation invasion. Below is a common furcation-rating scale, including charting symbols.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>The concavity—just above the furcation entrance—on the root trunk can be felt with the probe tip; however, the furcation probe cannot enter the furcation area.</td>
<td>▲</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class II</td>
<td>The probe is able to partially enter the furcation—extending approximately one third of the width of the tooth—but it is not able to pass completely through the furcation.</td>
<td>△</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>In mandibular molars, the probe passes completely through the furcation between the mesial and distal roots. In maxillary molars, the probe passes between the mesiobuccal and distobuccal roots and touches the palatal root.</td>
<td>▲</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class IV</td>
<td>Same as a class III furcation involvement except that the entrance to the furcation is visible clinically owing to tissue recession.</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documenting Furcation Involvement

On this sample periodontal chart, all four classes of furcation involvement are represented. Tooth 2 has a class IV furcation involvement on the facial aspect. Tooth 3 has a class I furcation involvement on the facial aspect between the mesiobuccal and distobuccal roots. On the lingual aspect, tooth 2 has a class III furcation involvement between the distobuccal and palatal roots and a class II furcation involvement between the mesiobuccal and palatal roots.

Adapted from Wilkins EM. *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist*, 9th ed. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2005.