

ASA Classification

*Please note: this is not an exhaustive list. Some judgment for conditions not listed should be made by the student clinician and faculty.

ASA I:

A client without systemic disease; a normal healthy client.

- Capable of tolerating stress involved in proposed dental treatment with no added risk of serious complications
- Treatment modifications are usually not necessary for clients in this group

ASA II:

A client with mild systemic disease or healthy clients who demonstrate a more extreme anxiety and fear toward dentistry.

- Somewhat less tolerant of stress than ASA I but present minimal risk during dental treatment
- Routine treatment is in order with consideration given toward possible treatment modifications or special considerations as warranted by the particular conditions; e.g. use of prophylactic antibiotics or sedative techniques, limiting the duration of treatment, and possible medical consultation.
- Examples:
 1. Well controlled NIDDM
 2. Well controlled epilepsy.
 3. Well controlled asthma.
 4. Well controlled hyperthyroid or hypothyroid disorders who are under the care of a physician and presently have normal thyroid function.
 5. ASA I clients with upper respiratory infection
 6. Healthy pregnant women.
 7. Otherwise healthy clients with allergies.
 8. Otherwise healthy clients with extreme dental fears.
 9. Healthy clients over the age of 60.
 10. Adult blood pressure between 140 to 159 and/or 90-94.

Caution is indicated.

ASA III:

Clients with severe systemic disease that limits activity but is not incapacitating.

- At rest these clients will not exhibit signs and symptoms of disease, but will do so when stressed either physiologically or psychologically.
- Able to walk up one flight of stairs but will have to stop en route because of distress.
- Elective dental care is not contraindicated, but this client does represent a greater risk during treatment.
- Serious consideration should be given to possible implementation of treatment modifications
- Examples:
 1. Stable angina pectoris.
 2. 6 months or longer post-myocardial infarction (heart attack) with no residual signs and symptoms.
 3. 6 months or longer post-cerebrovascular accident (stroke) with no residual signs and symptoms.
 4. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease - emphysema or chronic bronchitis.
 5. Exercise induced asthma.
 6. Less than well-controlled epilepsy.
 7. Symptomatic hyperthyroid or hypothyroid disorders
 8. Adult blood pressure between 160 to 199 and/or 96 to 114.

Caution is indicated.

ASA IV:

Clients who have an incapacitating disease that is a constant threat to life; have a severe medical problem of greater importance to the client than the planned dental treatment.

- Elective dental care should be postponed until such time as the patient's medical condition has improved to an ASA III classification
- Unable to walk one flight of stairs or two level city blocks.