

	Reversible Pulpitis	Irreversible Pulpitis	Acute Alveolar Abscess	Perio Abscess
Radiograph	Caries, defective or unbased restoration	Caries, defective restorations, PDL space enlargement	Caries, defective restorations, LEO or may not show any PDL enlargement	Possible foreign body or vertical bone loss
Pain Type	Sharp and fleeting, related to thermal challenge	Intense, continuous, prolonged, related to heat stimulus	Pulsating, pounding, continuous	Dull
Pain at Night/ Postural	No	Yes	Pain continuous	No
Pain Localization	Only with applied cold stimulus or PDL inflammation	Only with applied heat stimulus or PDL inflammation	Easily localized due to percussive tenderness	Upon Probing
Pulp Tests				
EPT	Normal response	Normal to elevated response	No response	Normal
Cold	Exaggerated response	Pain relieved by cold occasionally	No response	Normal
Heat	Normal - exaggerated response	Acute pain	No response	Normal
Percussion/Occlusion	If due to occlusion, percussion test (+++), otherwise normal	If inflamed, involved PDL (+), otherwise normal	Never percuss an AAA	Percussion sensitivity due to PDL inflammation
Palpation	Normal	Normal	Sensitive to palpation	Sensitive to palpation
Swelling	No	No	Yes - often to a large size	Occasionally
Mobility	No	No	Yes	Sometimes
Cavity	Response Normal	Normal - occlusal hypersensitivity	None	Normal
Treatment	Removal of decay, repair of defect, restoration, ZOE dressing, occlusal adjustment	Pulpectomy (single root), pulpotomy (multiple root), occlusal adjustment, Rx NSAIDS, analgesics	Establish drainage, I&D, Rx antibiotics, NSAIDS, analgesics	Removal of foreign body, scaling, curettage as necessary