Removable Partial Denture – Classification
Requirements of an Acceptable Method of Classification
1. Allow visualization of the type of partially edentulous arch.
2. Permit immediate differentiation between the tooth-supported and the tooth and tissue supported removable partial denture.
3. Universally accepted.
4. A guide to the type of design to be used.

Various types of Classification

- Cummer's Classification. 1920
- **Kennedy's Classification. 1925**
- **Applegate Classification. 1960**
- ACP Classification. 2002

Rules Governing Application of the Kennedy Method

Rule 1: Classification should follow rather than precede any extractions of teeth that might alter the original classification.
Rule 2: If a third molar is missing and is not to be replaced, it is not considered in the classification.
Rule 3: If a third molar is present and is to be used as an abutment, it is considered in the classification.
 Rule 4: If a second molar is missing and is not to be replaced, it is not considered in the classification (e.g., if the opposing second molar is likewise missing and is not to be replaced).
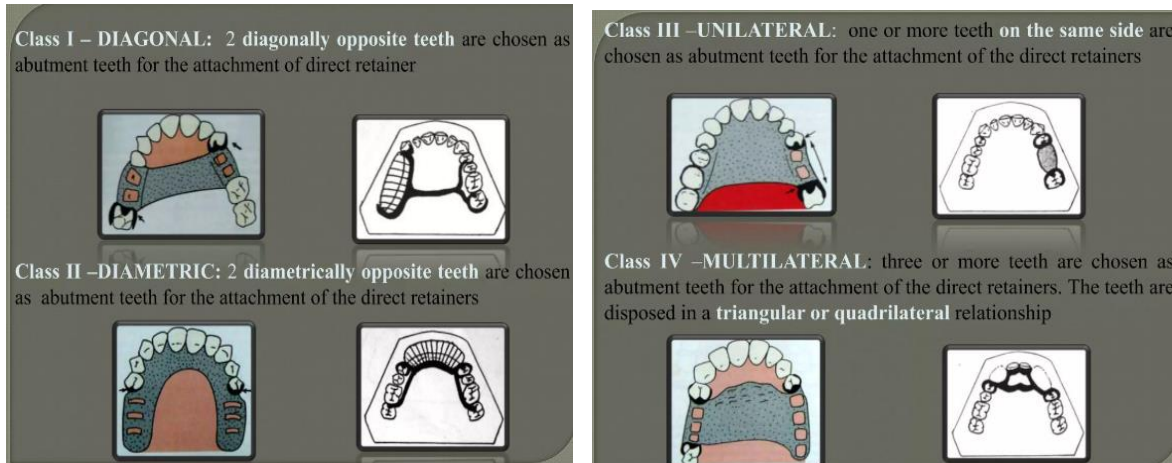**Rule 5:** The most posterior edentulous area (or areas) always determines the classification.
Rule 6: Edentulous areas other than those that determine the classification are referred to as modifications and are designated by their number.
Rule 7: The extent of the modification is not considered, only the number of additional edentulous areas.
Rule 8: No modification areas can be included in Class IV arches. (Other edentulous areas that lie posterior to the single bilateral areas crossing the midline would instead determine the classification; see Rule 5.).
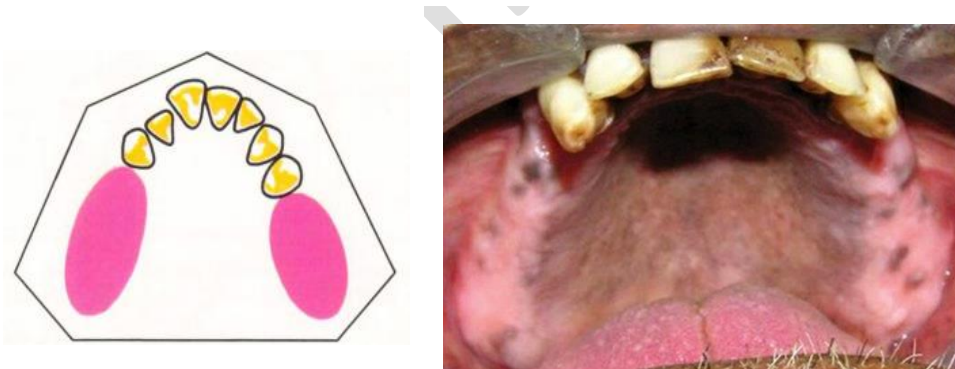
Cummer's Classification. 1920

Class I – DIAGONAL: 2 diagonally opposite teeth are chosen as abutment teeth for the attachment of direct retainer

Class II –DIAMETRIC: 2 diametrically opposite teeth are chosen as abutment teeth for the attachment of the direct retainers

Class III –UNILATERAL: one or more teeth on the same side are chosen as abutment teeth for the attachment of the direct retainers

Class IV –MULTILATERAL: three or more teeth are chosen as abutment teeth for the attachment of the direct retainers. The teeth are disposed in a **triangular or quadrilateral** relationship
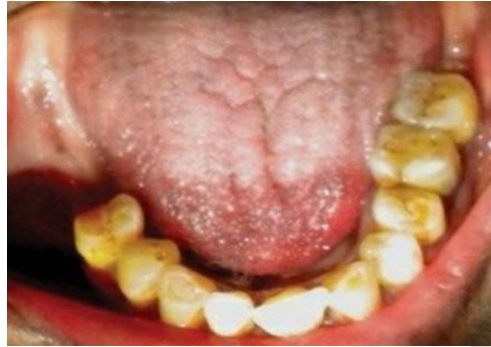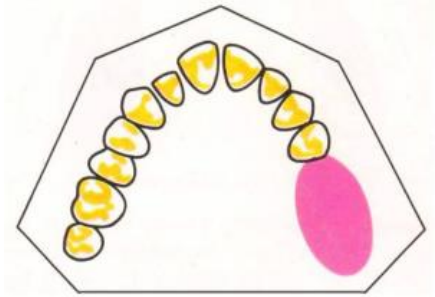
Kennedy's Classification

Dr. Edward Kennedy of New York sets this classification in 1925. This system is based on the relationship of the edentulous spaces to the abutment teeth. It is a positional or anatomical classification.
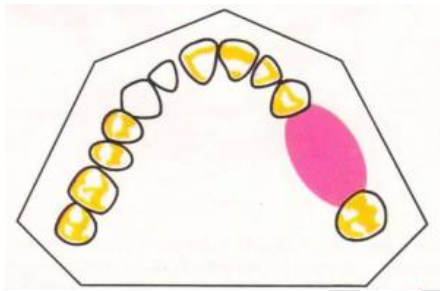
Class I: Bilateral edentulous areas located posterior to the remaining natural teeth. Highest incidence in mandible.
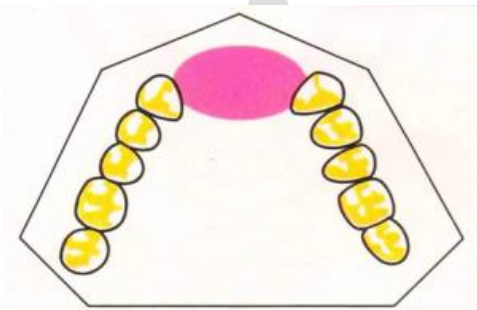

Class II: A unilateral edentulous area located posterior to the remaining natural teeth.

Class III: A unilateral edentulous area bounded anteriorly and posteriorly by remaining teeth.
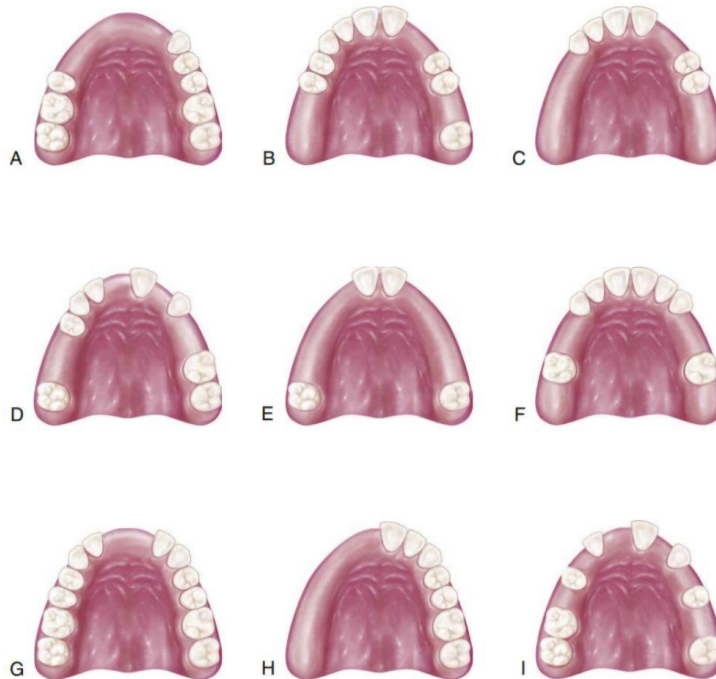

Class IV: An edentulous area located anterior to the remaining natural teeth. A single but bilateral (crossing the midline) edentulous area.

Modifications

They were indicated according to the number of such areas not by their extent.

Advantages:
1. It permits immediate visualization of the partially edentulous arches.
2. It permits a logical approach to the problems of design.
3. It gives a definite treatment plan.
4. Differentiates between bounded saddle and free end saddle.
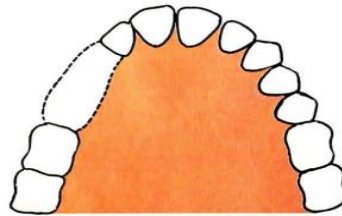5. Simplicity

Disadvantages:
1. Did not explain the length of the edentulous span or number of missing teeth only provide number of modification spaces.
2. Not enough consideration about the condition of teeth and the remaining supporting structures.
3. No distinction between modification spaces, which occur in the anterior segment to those of posterior segment.

Prosthodontic
Lec. 2

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Applegate's Classification

Oliver C. Applegate 1960, provide a modification of Kennedy's system. This system is based on the number, location and condition of abutment teeth or manner of achieving support.

Class V: Teeth bound the edentulous area anteriorly and posteriorly but anterior bounding tooth is not suitable as abutment. (Not strong enough for rest, direct retainer) (As the lateral incisor). It is a class III situation where anterior abutment cannot be used for any support.

Class VI: An edentulous situation in which the boundary teeth are capable of total support of the required prosthesis. This situation hardly requires any tissue support. The abutments are capable of providing total support.

Additional edentulous areas are designated by letter A and P.

A: Remaining teeth bound anterior segment of the arch.

P: Remaining teeth bound posterior segment of the arch.