

Why do I need x-rays?

Radiographic or x-ray examinations provide your dentist with an important tool that shows the condition of your teeth, its roots, jaw placement and the overall composition of your facial bones. X-rays can help your dentist determine the presence or degree of periodontal disease, abscesses and many abnormal growths, such as cysts and tumors. X-rays also can show the exact location of impacted and unerupted teeth. They can pinpoint the location of cavities and other signs of disease that may not be possible to detect through a visual examination.

Do all patients have x-rays taken every six months?

No. Your radiographic schedule it's based on the dentist's assessment. In most cases, new patients require a full mouth set of x-rays to evaluate oral health status, including any underlying signs of gum disease and for future comparison. Follow-up patients may require x-rays to my monitor their gum condition or their chance of tooth decay.

What kind of x-rays does my dentist usually take?

Typically, most dental patients have "periapical" or "bitewing" radiographs taken. Bitewing x-rays typically determine the presence of decay in between teeth, while periapical x-rays show root structure, bone levels, cysts, and abscesses.

My dentist has prescribed a "panoramic radiograph". What is that?

A panoramic radiograph allows your dentist to see the entire structure of your mouth in a single image. This x-ray reveals all of your upper and lower teeth and parts of your jaw. I will also show any abnormal growths, such as cysts and tumors.

Why do I need both types of x-rays?

What is apparent through one type of x-ray often is not visible on another. The panoramic x-ray will give your dentist a general and comprehensive view of your entire mouth on a single film, which a full mouth series, periapical or bitewing x-ray cannot show. These x-rays make it easier for your dentist to see decay or cavities between your teeth. X-rays are not prescribe indiscriminately.

Should I be concerned about exposure to radiation?

All healthcare providers are sensitive to patients' concern about exposure to radiation. Your dentist has been trained to prescribe radiographs when they are appropriate and to tailor radiographic schedules to each patient's individual needs. By using state-of-the-art technology your dentist knows which techniques, procedures and x-ray films can minimize your exposure to radiation.

I accept recommended x-ray procedures

Signature _____ Date _____

If you choose to wait on x-rays in our office it is with the understanding that it is in direct opposition to my recommendations. In some cases, I may ask you to seek services at an office that would agree to treat you without radiographic examination.

I decline recommended x-ray procedures.

Signature _____ Date _____