

Ashley Torres

Prof. Haynes

DEN 1218 SEC D232

5/7/23

In the article “Refusing dental radiographs” by Dianne Watterson, she talks about the importance of taking dental radiographs and how to handle situations where a patient refuses X-rays. The article begins when one of the instructors named Carolina writes a letter to Dianne stating her concern about why a refusal form is not considered reliable in court when a patient does not want dental radiographs. Dianne then responds by explaining the importance of taking X-rays throughout the article. She explains to Carolina that it is like working in a dark oral cavity. Clinicians are not able to diagnose conditions that are only seen with dental X-rays. You need light in order to properly treat a patient. Therefore, although patients have the right to refuse dental radiographs, clinicians can not ethically work on patients because they are technically agreeing to work on a patient who may or may not have a disease that is undiagnosed. It is the healthcare professional's responsibility to acknowledge this and dismiss the patient. Therefore, if I had a patient who did not want any dental radiographs I would first explain to them how X-rays work to reduce any anxiety. I would say it is only very little radiation exposure and it is very harmless. I would explain to the patient that it can allow us to see any existing conditions that we can not see clinically. I would do this by showing pictures of X-rays to better educate the patient. I would explain to the patient the risk of not having dental X-rays. If the patient still can not understand I would respect the patient's decision but I would have to dismiss them. I would not want to be reliable if anything terrible happens to the patient in the future but I would advise them to rethink the decision and wish them the best in their oral health.

