PATIENT EDUCATION AND THE DENTAL RADIOGRAPHER

X - RAYS

JAEGGER PENDOLEY·NAZIRA SAVCHENKO
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

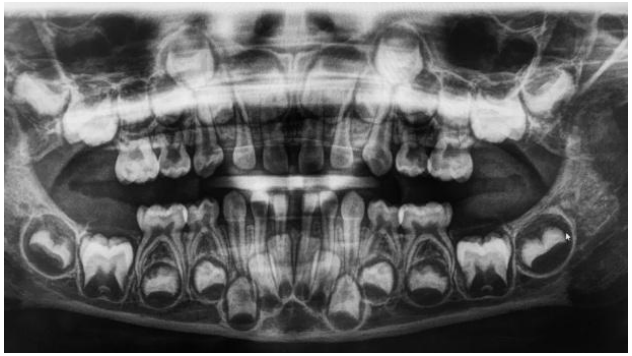
NECESSITY OF X - RAYS

ARE X - RAYS NECESSARY?

- Unless you arrive to your dental appointment with x-rays that have been taken within the past few years, your Dentist or Hygienist will be working blind.

- Radiographs serve as a diagnostic tool, allowing the clinician to see any damage or disease occurring below the gum line, and in the bone.

- Cavities, jaw disorders, extra numerary teeth, gum disease, bone loss, cysts, abscesses can all be caught early with the help of radiographs.

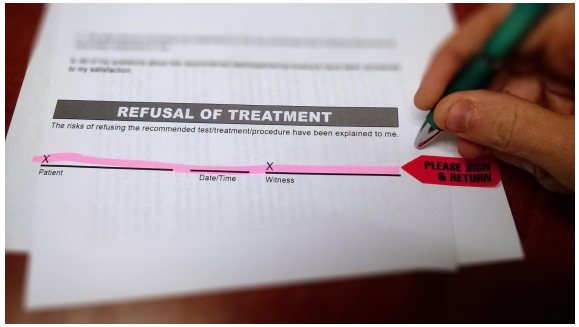


CAN I REFUSE X - RAYS AND STILL BE TREATED?

- It is up to the individual dental practice, however, the prevailing majority of dental offices will refuse treatment.

- By not having radiographs taken there is a high probability that improper diagnosis can occur. This leaves clinicians at a risk for a liability lawsuit.

- Furthermore, most clinicians truly want to help their patients. The best way to do so is by knowing what is going on below the gum line. Until clinicians have x-ray vision, we will continue to rely on machines.



SAFETY CONCERNS

ARE X - RAYS SAFE?

YES!

The x-ray uses low amounts of radiation that generally have **minimal impact** on your health.

Patients wear protective aprons with a neck collar to help **limit exposure** to unnecessary radiation.

The **benefits** of getting the x-ray image to check for a health concern are greater than the risks.

Today, x-rays are **essential in helping doctors** diagnose, treat, and rule out different medical conditions.

WILL I GET CANCER FROM TAKING X - RAYS?

CHANCES ARE LOW.

The x-ray uses electromagnetic radiation, which **can damage living cells and DNA**, and lead to the development of cancer.

These side effects depend on:

- **amount** of radiation
- **body region** (some organs are more radiosensitive, such as the thyroid gland)
- **age** (children are more sensitive to radiation)
- **duration** of exposure

The radiation dose absorbed from a simple x-ray examination is **small**, and the chances of you developing cancer due to x-ray examinations are **very low**.

REFERENCES

- Center for Devices and Radiological Health, F. D. A. (n.d.). *Medical X-ray imaging: FDA*. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved February 10, 2023, from https://www.fda.gov/radiation-emitting-products/medical-imaging/medical-x-ray-imaging
- Iannucci, J. (n.d.). *Dental Radiography Principles and Techniques*. Elsevier Education Portal. Retrieved February 10, 2023, from https://evolve.elsevier.com/Iannucci/dentalradiography/
- Katharyn Edwards, R. D. H. (2021, October 6). *What hygienists should say when patients refuse dental radiographs*. Today's RDH. Retrieved February 10, 2023, from https://www.todaysrdh.com/what-hygienists-should-say-when-patients-refuse-dental-radiographs/#:~:text=A%20patient%20simply%20cannot%20waive,the%20patient%20from%20the%20practice.
- *Washington State Department of Health*. | Washington State Department of Health. (n.d.). Retrieved February 10, 2023, from https://doh.wa.gov/
- West Chester Dental Arts · published March 30, & West Chester Dental Arts. (2023, January 19). *Why are dental x-rays important?* West Chester Dental Arts. Retrieved February 10, 2023, from https://www.wcdentalarts.com/blog/why-are-dental-x-rays-important/