



Helping Hands

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DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS

According to the American Dental Association, many diseases of the teeth and surrounding tissues cannot be seen when your dentist examines the mouth without x-rays. An x-ray may reveal:

- Small areas of decay between teeth or below existing fillings
- Infections in the bone
- Periodontal disease
- Abscesses or cysts
- Developmental abnormalities
- Structural abnormalities
- Extra or missing teeth
- Some types of tumors

If your child is a new patient, the provider will recommend radiographs based on your child's needs. These radiographs determine the present status of the hidden areas of your child's mouth and to help analyze changes that may occur later.

How often radiographs should be taken depends on the patient's individual health needs. We will review your child's history, examine the mouth and then decide whether your child needs radiographs and what type. The frequency for needing radiographs can vary according to age, risk for disease and signs and symptoms. Children may need radiographs more than adults because their teeth and jaws are still developing and their teeth are more likely to be affected by tooth decay than those of adults.

The dentist must weigh the benefits of disease detection against the risk of radiation exposure. The American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Food and Drug Administration has a published guideline to aid the dentist in prescribing the number, type, and frequency of dental radiographs.

Our office also seeks to minimize radiation exposure by using digital radiographs which decrease radiation exposure by at least 50% than traditional radiographs. We prescribe radiographs based on individual needs, and all patients wear lead aprons.

We require radiographs to be taken to provide you and your child with the most accurate diagnosis. We will be unable to perform treatment if you refuse necessary x-ray diagnostic procedures.