

A copy of this patient information sheet should be given to the patient or substitute decision-maker or parent/legal guardian/other person* of a child or young person to read carefully and allow time to ask any questions about the procedure. The patient information sheet should be included in the patient's medical record.

In this information sheet, the word 'you' means the patient unless a substitute decision-maker, parent, legal guardian or other person is providing consent on behalf of the patient, in which case the word 'you' means the substitute decision-maker, parent, legal guardian or other person when used in the context of the person providing consent to the procedure.



1. What is dental imaging and how will it help me?

All types of dental imaging are used to assess your teeth development and position, plan for orthodontic treatment or look for other conditions affecting the wider area of the mouth and jaw.

There are 5 main types of dental imaging. These are:

- **Intraoral x-rays:** Sometimes called 'bitewing' or 'periapical' x-rays. These images will require you to have a small square of x-ray film or a digital sensor placed inside the mouth while the x-ray is taken.
- **OPG:** Orthopantomography (OPG) is an x-ray that provides an image of the jaws and teeth. You may be required to bite onto a clean mouth piece on an x-ray machine whilst the OPG machine moves slowly around your head.
- **TMJ imaging:** Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) imaging looks at the joints that control the motion of your jaw. The images will be taken the same way as an OPG. You may be asked to open or close your mouth during the x-rays.
- **Lateral cephalometry:** This x-ray will produce a side-on and/or frontal picture of the head and neck that is often used for orthodontic treatment. Special measuring tools will be gently placed on the forehead and in both ears. The x-ray machine will move slowly to take the image.
- **Dentascans and CBCT:** Dentascans and Cone-Beam Computed Tomography Systems (CBCT) are two similar yet slightly different imaging methods. CBCT machines are more like OPG machines than traditional Computed Tomography (CT) units. CBCT and Dentascans produce detailed 3-D pictures of your teeth and jaw from different angles, with only a single scan. CBCT scans involve less radiation than a conventional CT scan but more than other types of dental imaging.



Image 1: Young patient having intra-oral dental imaging. ID: 108246734. www.shutterstock.com

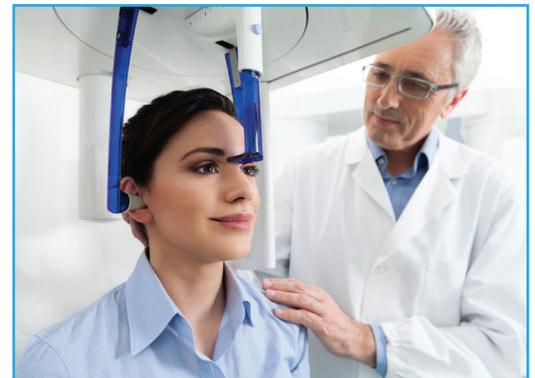


Image 2: Person having lateral cephalometry imaging. ID: 794834914. www.shutterstock.com



Image 3: Person having an Orthopantomogram (OPG). ID: 686871211. www.shutterstock.com



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Preparing for the procedure

Prior to having dental imaging you will be asked to remove any piercings or metal objects from your neck upwards, as these can affect the quality of the images. This includes jewellery, glasses, hearing aids, dentures, hair ties and clips.

Tell your dental practitioner if you:

- are pregnant or suspect that you might be pregnant
- have had recent dental x-rays, as this may avoid the need for more dental imaging.

For a parent/legal guardian/other person of a patient having dental imaging

To prepare the patient for this procedure and to ease their concerns, tell them what they can expect to happen during the procedure. This information sheet will assist you with this.

We welcome your help and support in preparing the patient for the procedure and in explaining why it's so important to stay still.

At the discretion of the procedure staff a parent/adult (unless pregnant) may be invited into the procedure room to support the patient.

Other children are not allowed into the procedure room, and they must be supervised at all times by another parent/adult.

During the procedure

The machine used for your imaging and how you are positioned, will depend on the type of dental imaging you are having.

The radiographer, dental practitioner or dental assistant will position you for the imaging. They will not be in the room during the imaging but will be able to see you the whole time and communicate with you throughout.

During the imaging, you may be asked to put your tongue up against the roof of your mouth or instructed not to swallow until the x-ray has been completed (this is to avoid movement during the x-ray).

It is important that you keep your whole body still for the duration of the imaging. Parents and staff may be required to help. Supporting straps, foam pads and light weights may also be used.



2. What are the risks?

In recommending the procedure, the dental practitioner believes that the benefits to you from having the procedure exceed the risks involved. There are risks and possible complications associated with the procedure which can occur with all patients – these are set out below.

There may also be additional risks and possible complications specific to your condition and circumstances which the dental practitioner will discuss with you. If you have any further concerns, please ensure that you raise them with the dental practitioner.

Less common risks and complications

- the chosen examination may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons. An alternative may be offered.

Rare risks and complications

- death because of dental imaging is very rare.

Risks of radiation

The risks of radiation exposure from this procedure need to be compared to the risks of your condition not being treated. Exposure to radiation may cause a slight increase in the risk of cancer to you over your lifetime. However, the potential risk is small compared to the expected benefit of this procedure¹.

What are the risks of not having dental imaging?

There may be adverse consequences for your health if you choose not to have the proposed examination. Please discuss these with the dental practitioner.



3. Are there alternatives?

Making the decision to have a procedure requires you to understand the options available.



4. What should I expect after the procedure?

You will be able to continue with regular daily activities once the dental imaging is complete.



5. Who will be performing the procedure?

A clinician other than the radiographer, dental practitioner or dental assistant may assist with/conduct the clinically appropriate examination. This could be a clinician undergoing further training. All trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss this with the doctor/clinician.

For the purpose of undertaking professional training in this teaching hospital, a clinical student(s) may observe medical examination(s) or procedure(s) and may also, subject to your consent, assist with/conduct an examination or procedure on a patient.

You are under no obligation to consent to an examination(s) or a procedure(s) being undertaken by a clinical student(s) for training purposes. If you choose not to consent, it will not adversely affect your access, outcome or rights to medical treatment in any way.

For more information on student care, please visit www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/students.



6. Where can I find support or more information?

Hospital care: before, during and after is available on the Queensland Health website www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after where you can read about your healthcare rights.

Further information about informed consent can be found on the Informed Consent website www.health.qld.gov.au/consent. Additional statewide consent forms and patient information sheets are also available here.

Staff are available to support patients' cultural and spiritual needs. If you would like cultural or spiritual support, please discuss this with your doctor/clinician.

Queensland Health recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients will experience the best clinical care when their culture is included during shared decision-making.



7. Questions

Please ask the dental practitioner if you do not understand any aspect of this patient information sheet or if you have any questions about your proposed examination.

If you have further questions prior to your appointment, please contact the Medical Imaging or Oral Health department via the main switchboard of the facility where your procedure is booked.



8. Contact us

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

If it is not an emergency, but you have concerns, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

References:

1. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). Ionising radiation in our everyday environment, 2021. Available from www.arpansa.gov.au

* Formal arrangements, such as parenting/custody orders, adoption, or other formally recognised carer/guardianship arrangements. Refer to the Queensland Health 'Guide to Informed Decision-making in Health Care' and local policy and procedures.