

Information For Patients requiring Dental Radiographs (X-Rays)

Reviewed March 2019

We recognise that people are often concerned about being exposed to radiation during an x-ray. However we wish to reassure you that the part of your body being examined will only be exposed to a low level of radiation for a fraction of a second, for intra oral radiographs, or a few seconds, for other types.

Being exposed to x-rays does carry a risk of causing cancer decades later, but this risk is very low.

An x-ray of your teeth is equivalent to a few days of background radiation (natural radiation from the environment), and has less than a one in a million chance of causing cancer. As an example, from a two hour flight to Spain from the UK, a person would receive approximately 0.01 millisievert effective (whole body) radiation dose from exposure to radiation.

This is less than one small dental x-ray film and about the same as a larger panoramic x- ray film.

The benefits and risks of you having an x ray will be weighed up by the dentist before it is taken, and an x-ray will only be taken if it is necessary to provide the information needed for your dental care.

If you have any questions about your care please address these to a member of our staff, who will be pleased to help.