

Dental X-rays

Your health

- Dental X-rays help with making a diagnosis, planning treatment or monitoring the health of your teeth.
- They involve the use of ionising radiation (X-rays) to produce detailed images of teeth, gums and jaws.



Radiation

- Everyone receives ionising radiation every day from radioactivity in the air, food we eat and even from space.
- The amount of radiation used for dental X-rays is similar to your everyday exposure over a few days, so the risks associated with them are very low for both adults and children.
- The main benefit of the X-ray is making the correct diagnosis or plan, or ensuring your teeth are healthy, so you can get the treatment that's right for you. The X-ray will have been approved by a specialist (usually your dentist) who has agreed that the benefit is far greater than the small risk from X-rays.



Our staff and equipment

- Staff are trained to take the best possible images using the lowest amount of radiation.
- Equipment is regularly checked to make sure the test is safe and effective.



Your test

- You may have your X-ray taken during your dental examination or you may need to go to an X-ray room, depending on the type of exam required to get the appropriate information.
- You will normally be informed of the outcome of the X-ray before you leave. If not, our staff will tell you when and how you will be told the outcome of your X-ray.



We are here to make sure your test is right for you, so let's talk!

If you have any questions, or if you would like us to use specific language to describe your sex, gender, identity or anatomy, please speak to a member of staff in confidence.

Produced by the **Clinical Imaging Board**, a collaboration between the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, The Royal College of Radiologists and the Society and College of Radiographers.