

Dental X-rays

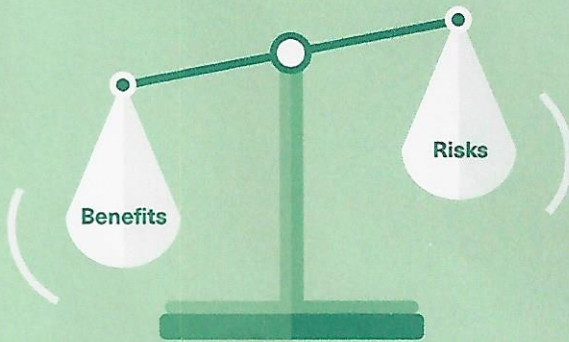
Your health

- 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.



If you have any questions, please ask

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.