

What is OPG (OrthoPantomoGram)

An OPG is a panoramic or wide view x-ray of the lower face, which displays all the teeth of the upper and lower jaw on a single film. It demonstrates the number, position and growth of all the teeth including those that have not yet surfaced or erupted. It is different from the small close up x-rays dentists take of individual teeth. An OPG may also reveal problems with the jawbone and the joint which connects the jawbone to the head, called the Temporomandibular joint or TMJ.

Like any medical imaging utilizing [ionizing radiation](#), there will be a degree of direct ionizing damage and indirect damage from [free radicals](#) created during the ionization of water molecules within cells.

Procedure

You may be asked to remove jewellery, eyeglasses, and any metal objects that may obscure the images. You will be asked to stand with your face resting on a small shelf and to bite gently on a sterile mouth piece to steady your head. It is important to stay very still while the x-ray is taken. You will not feel any discomfort during the procedure.



Reasons for OPG

Dental Disease

- Tooth Decay
- Gum Disease
- Periodontal Abscess

Extraction of teeth (wisdom teeth)

OPG shows angulation, shape of roots, size and shape of crown, effect on other vital tissues.

Teeth Abnormalities

to show abnormal size, number, shape and position.

Trauma to teeth and facial skeleton

- determine site and direction of fracture lines.
- relationship of teeth to fracture lines.
- alignment of bone fragments after healing.
- follow up to assess healing.

Jaw Bone Pathology

- to show disease inside upper and / or bottom jaw bone
- to show Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) problem

