

## **Information on X-Rays (Radiographs)**

There are different types of dental x-rays that are taken for different purposes. The radiation exposure from these types of small dental films is quite minimal. Indeed, it is comparable to what you would receive during a 4-5 hour airplane flight or from several hours of watching television. The valuable information they provide, which allows for more complete and accurate diagnosis and treatment of any dental problems, far outweighs the risk involved.

### **Bitewing Radiographs**

These radiographs are often taken every one to two years to show the upper and lower posterior teeth on one single film. They are used to detect areas of decay between the teeth that often cannot be detected clinically. They also show any areas of bone loss, which indicates the presence of gum disease or a dental infection. This radiograph is beneficial, because it allows small problems to be treated before they become more serious, and often more expensive to treat.

### **Periapical Radiographs**

These radiographs show the whole structure of the tooth, including the crown (part of the tooth that is visible in the mouth) and the root, as well as the bones that support the teeth. These x-rays are used to detect dental problems below the gumline, or in the jaw, such as impacted teeth, abscesses or cysts.

### **Occlusal Radiographs**

These radiographs allow the dentist to view the roof or floor of the mouth on a single film. These x-rays are helpful in detecting extra teeth, or teeth that have not yet erupted, cleft palate, cysts, abscesses, growths or foreign objects.

### **Panoramic Radiographs**

This is a valuable diagnostic tool that gives your dentist a comprehensive view of your entire mouth on a single film. It can help your dentist determine if any of the following conditions are present: neoplasms (growths, either cancerous or non-cancerous), impacted teeth, cysts, abscesses, abnormal bone destruction, jaw joint relationship, growth patterns, abnormal resorption of the bone and teeth, moderate to advanced periodontal disease, tooth/sinus relationship, position of the nerve in the lower jaw, sinus in upper jaw and amount of available bone for implant placement.

**At the Carriage Place Dental Centre, we prescribe x-rays based on each patient's individual needs. We are mindful of minimizing every patient's exposure to radiation while at the same time gathering the information necessary for complete and accurate diagnosis of any problems. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to approach any of our knowledgeable team members.**