

patient information

OPG and Lateral Cephalometry



QUEENSLAND
X-RAY

OPG AND LATERAL CEPHALOMETRY

What is an Orthopantomogram?

An Orthopantomogram, or OPG, is a special type of X-Ray looking at the lower face that displays both the upper and lower teeth in a long flat line.

It demonstrates the number, position and growth of all your teeth including those that have not yet surfaced.

What is Lateral Cephalometry?

Lateral Cephalogram is an X-Ray taken of the side of your face with very precise positioning so that various measurements can be made to determine the current and future relationship of your mandible (jaw) to your maxilla (cheek bone) and therefore the nature of your bite. This helps to plan any orthodontic treatment if it is necessary.

Preparation

There is no preparation needed and there are no after effects. Once at the practice, you will not be required to change into a gown. You will, however, be asked to remove any jewellery or metallic items from the neck and head area as they may interfere with the X-Ray image.

Procedure

During the OPG or Lateral Cephalometry the arm of the machine will rotate around your head but it will not come into contact with you. The Radiographer (a Technologist trained in medical imaging) will tell you to bite on a small plastic mouthpiece attached to the machine, which keeps the top and bottom rows of teeth separated. Occasionally a film may need to be repeated if there is any movement, or if the position is not exact.



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Examination and Reporting Time

The procedure is brief (about 15 minutes), painless and simple, but it is vital that you keep completely still once the Radiographer has positioned you.

The images are interpreted by a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in medical imaging). You can either wait for your results or alternative arrangements can be made to collect them at a later stage.

Should you require further information regarding OPG and Lateral Cephalometry please contact Queensland X-Ray or visit our website at www.qldxray.com.au



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