

Orthopantomogram (OPG) Dental X-Ray

This brochure explains how to prepare for your OPG. It is a panoramic x-ray of the upper and lower jaws, including the teeth.

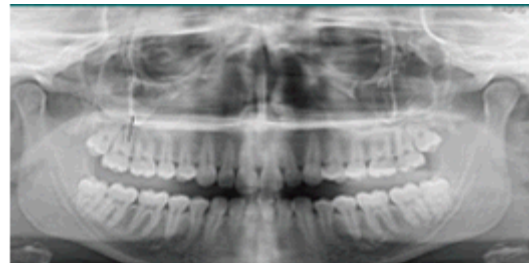
This document should not replace the advice of your relevant health care professional.

What is an OPG

The OPG machine is designed to rotate around the patient’s head during the x-ray.

An OPG is fast, and painless. The x-ray takes about 15-20 minutes

- An OPG can be used to look for
 - Fractures
 - Trauma to the jaw
 - Infection
 - Dentition (teeth)



Preparing for your OPG

- No preparation is required
- Before the procedure remove glasses, dentures and jewellery from your head and neck

✔ Do
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring you Medicare card with you 2. Your request form if you have it 3. Bring any previous OPG’s with you from the last 2 years 4. If you are, or could be, pregnant then please tell your health practitioner or radiographer. 5. Leave all Jewellery and valuables at home <p>Austin Health does not take responsibility for your personal possessions.</p>



Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on and pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Austin Health celebrates, values and includes people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.

About the Procedure

- The x-ray will be taken by a radiographer (a health professional trained to perform imaging procedures). The Radiographer will explain the procedure and make sure that you're comfortable to go ahead with it.
- You will either stand or sit on a chair for the OPG. It is important that you tell the staff if you have difficulty sitting or standing unassisted
- You will be asked to bite onto a plastic tube. This keeps the top and bottom teeth separated, and helps position the mouth properly in the machine.
- There are two handles on the machine which you'll need to hold to keep your balance as we may need to ask you to lean backwards to get the best possible picture.
- When you are in the right position, the radiographer will use a clamp to gently hold your head in place and stop it from moving. This doesn't hurt.
- Once you are in place, the machine starts to move around your head. It usually makes a whizzing noise. While it is moving it can touch your shoulders. Try not to move as this will blur the image and may mean the x-ray has to be repeated.



What are the risks

- OPG's are commonly performed and generally safe. However, in order to make an informed decision and give your consent, you need to be aware of the possible risks.
- You will be exposed to some X-ray radiation but the amount you receive isn't considered to be harmful. The level of exposure will depend on the procedure. Talk to your doctor or radiographer for more information.
- If you are, or could be, pregnant then please tell your doctor or radiographer. Pregnant women are generally advised not to have X-rays as there is a small risk the radiation may harm the unborn baby.

Further information

Department of Radiology

Phone: 9496 5431 enquiries.radiology@austin.org.au

Your results will be sent in a report to the Health Practitioner who referred you for this test.

Please make a follow up appointment with your Health Practitioner to discuss your results and further management plan.

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