

# OPG /

# Dental X-ray

## Patient Information

### What is an OPG?

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An OPG is a special X-ray technique which gives a panoramic view of the mouth, giving information on the teeth and the bones of the upper and lower jaw.

An OPG may be requested for the planning of orthodontic treatment, for assessment of wisdom teeth or for a general overview of the teeth and the bone which supports the teeth.

### What happens during an OPG?

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Before your OPG the radiographer (trained health professional) will ask you questions about why you have come for an OPG. They will then explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have before proceeding with the examination.

You will be asked to remove glasses, hair accessories and jewellery.

You will then be asked to stand with your chin resting on a small shelf to provide accurate positioning. You will be asked to bite down on a sterile covered mouth piece to steady your head. Once the position is accurate, the X-ray machine will move around your head generating a panoramic image.

The procedure is very quick and you will not feel any discomfort.

A report will be sent to your Doctor within 24 hours.

### What are the risks of an OPG?

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The only risk associated with this procedure arises from the very small dose of radiation from the X-ray unit. Your referring doctor will consider this risk against the diagnostic benefit before referring you for this procedure.