

FACT SHEET:

Orthopantomogram (OPG)



What is an OPG?

An OPG (or orthopantomogram) is a rotational panoramic dental X-ray that allows the dentist to view the upper and lower jaws. It is a 2-dimensional representation of these.

How do I prepare for my OPG?

OPG examinations can be performed without prior preparation on behalf of the patient. The Radiographer may ask you to remove metal objects such as necklaces and earrings, and any dentures, as they interfere with the quality of the image.

What happens during an OPG?

During an OPG you will be asked to bite gently onto a small peg and the arm of the machine will rotate around your head, while the image is captured on a sensor.

Are there any after-effects from an OPG?

No. You won't feel any different after these tests.



How long does an OPG take?

An OPG image can be generated in about 5 minutes.

What are the risks of an OPG?

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 to our clinic.

What are the benefits of an OPG?

An OPG is a simple test that provides the referring practitioner with an overall view of your jaws, teeth, and joints. It is an excellent tool for diagnosing diseases of teeth and bone, and is generally done for most patients that require surgical, periodontal, or dental treatment.