

OPG AND LATERAL CEPHALOGRAM

INFORMATION SHEET

What is an OPG and lateral cephalogram?

An orthopantomogram (OPG) and a lateral cephalogram are specialised x-ray images of your teeth and jaw. They are radiographs taken using ionising radiation that can pass through the body allowing images of internal structures such as bone and teeth. The radiation dose from an OPG is very low.

What preparation is required?

Although no preparation is required for this service, it is important to let the radiographer know if you are, or might be, pregnant.

What happens during an OPG?

The radiographer will call you in and confirm your name. You may be asked to remove jewellery around your mouth and face, as well as any dentures. Your chin will then be positioned in the OPG machine which moves around your jaw and takes an image. It is important to hold still so the pictures are clear and concise. You will not feel anything while the image is taken, and there are no after effects. The entire procedure usually takes less than 10 minutes.

When can I expect the results of the x-ray?

As a rule, all x-rays are reported by our radiologists the same day, at which point the doctor or dentist who requested the procedure will receive the result electronically. If you have previous films, it is helpful if you bring them with you as the radiologist may want to compare the new film with old ones to provide a better and more accurate report.