

Radiographic Information and Consent

Bitewing Radiographs

These films, usually two, evaluate the presence and extent of interproximal decay in the posterior teeth (in between the back teeth). These films may be performed as early as 3 or 4 years of age, if there is visible decay and there are no spaces between the teeth.

Periapical Radiograph

This film evaluates the area around the root of the tooth. Diagnosis of a root fracture, decay, infection, or the need for root canal treatment may be reason to obtain this film.

Occlusal Radiograph

This film evaluates the presence or status of the upper and lower anterior (front) teeth. Fractures of the root or bone and missing or extra teeth are often diagnosed with this film.

Panoramic Radiograph

This film may be recommended when a patient is about 6 years old or older or when bitewing or periapical radiographs are unobtainable (i.e. gag reflex, or behavior) or if there are symptoms or evidence of a problem. The panoramic film evaluates missing teeth, malposition of permanent teeth, pathology such as tumors and cysts, supernumerary (extra) teeth, the need for orthodontic intervention, trauma, the roots of teeth, crown formation of permanent teeth, and the status of the third molars (wisdom teeth).

Due to medical and legal consideration, we must be informed should there be any possibility of pregnancy before x-rays are taken.

I understand that some dental pathology or decay can not be diagnosed without the use of dental radiographs. I understand that Dr. Marshall may recommend that x-rays be taken. I shall not hold Dr. Marshall responsible for problems resulting from undiagnosed pathology or decay due to my refusal or inability to take x-rays.