



**EUROMEDIC**  
Ireland *Putting patients first*

PATIENT INFORMATION

**OPG**



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## What is OPG?

An orthopantomogram (OPG) is an advanced type of dental X-ray that provides a panoramic view of the upper and lower jaw, all of your teeth and the joints between your jaw and skull.

Dentists use OPGs for information on impacted wisdom teeth, finding the source of dental pain, and assessment for the placement of dental implants. The examination is painless and takes approximately one minute.

## How is it performed?

Dental X-rays require no special preparation. You may be asked to remove bulky outer clothing and to remove jewellery which might interfere with the X-ray images.

You will be asked to stand in the centre of the OPG machine. You must remain still during the X-ray so you will be asked to bite on a disposable guide to help you keep in position. When the X-ray is being taken, part of the machine will move in front of your face as the image is formed, but the machine will not touch you.

An OPG machine can also perform a 'lateral cephalogram'. This is simply a side image of the skull and this can provide additional information if the dentist requires it.

## X-ray during pregnancy

If you are pregnant, having an X-ray may not be an option. This depends on the type of X-ray that you need to have, as the levels of radiation exposure vary. Even though the risk to your baby is considered low, it is likely that your GP or dentist will advise you postpone any unnecessary X-rays until after giving birth.

You will be asked for the date of your last period before you have an X-ray. This is simply to check that there is no chance you could be pregnant. Please inform the radiographer (the clinician who operates the equipment) if there is any chance of this.

## The result

You will be given your films to take to your dentist at the end of your appointment. If you have any other questions, worries or doubts, do not hesitate to ask one of our team or contact us prior to your appointment.

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