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Dental X-Rays and Your Health (1972)

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**Dental
X-rays
and
Your Health**

Dental X-rays and Your Health

X-ray examinations of your teeth are important to you and your dentist. You want your dentist to give you the best possible care. He can do this only by making x-ray examinations of your teeth and gums, when he considers it necessary.

Benefits of X-ray Examinations

How do you benefit from an x-ray examination? It is one of the important means your dentist uses to help you keep your natural teeth for a lifetime. With the aid of x-rays your dentist can detect diseases of your mouth that, if left untreated, might seriously damage facial bones, as well as your teeth and gums. Early treatment saves money and, more important, it saves teeth and can even save lives. For example:

1. Small cavities on the hidden surfaces of the teeth and new decay areas often cannot be detected unless x-rays are taken. Without such pictures your first warning may be pain caused by an infection of a tooth. By then, it may require a great amount of time and effort to repair the tooth. It may even be too late for the tooth to be saved.
2. Periodontal (gum) disease can cause loss of teeth through destruction of the jawbone. Often the first signs of serious trouble can be found only by x-rays.
3. Certain kinds of bone cancer can be seen in the x-rays long before they develop into visible tumors and early enough to be treated with success.

Use of Modern Techniques

You may have heard or read statements that question the use of x-rays for dental examinations. However, there is no reason for any patient to be concerned when such examinations are made with modern methods and safeguards. This is the opinion of such authorities as the Council on Dental Research and the Council on Dental Materials and Devices of the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Oral Radiology and the Bureau of Radiological Health, U.S. Public Health Service.

Dentists are deeply concerned about radiation protection and are trained to use every modern measure possible to insure your safety. Based upon your specific oral health needs, your dentist will limit your x-ray examinations to those minimum required for the diagnosis and prevention of disease.

Through the use of x-ray examinations your dentist can help you keep your teeth healthy for a lifetime.

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