



What is a Lateral Cephalometry?

Lateral Cephalometry is an x-ray of the side of the face and jaw that allows the doctor to view the relationship between your teeth and the bones of your face. From the image, various measurements can be made relating to the nature of your bite.

Who does my Lateral Cephalometry?

The person who operates the equipment is a Radiographer. They are university trained and accredited with the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR). The person that views and interprets the images is a doctor specialising in Radiology, known as a Radiologist. The Radiologist will prepare a report for your Health Care Professional.

What should I expect when I have my Lateral Cephalometry?

During the examination you will be asked to remove all metal items that you have on your head eg. earrings, hair clips, glasses, metal plates and dentures etc. The Radiographer will place guides that will sit in your ears. You will be asked to remain still for the duration of this examination, as movement will blur the images. The image is then captured on film and should only take a few seconds.

Are there any risks or side effects from my Lateral Cephalometry?

Having a lateral cephalometry will expose your body to a very low level of radiation. No radiation remains after the test. Your doctor has sent you for this test knowing that the information provided by the scan is more beneficial than the very low risk associated with it. The skill of the operator and the design of the machine ensure you receive the lowest radiation dose possible. Female patients who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant must advise the staff before the examination, as lateral cephalometry is usually not performed during pregnancy unless it is an absolute medical necessity to do so.

How do I prepare for my Lateral Cephalometry?

During the examination you will be asked to remove all metal items that you have on your head eg. earrings, necklaces, hair clips, glasses, metal plates and dentures.

Things to bring along to my appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card (as we bulk bill all eligible Medicare services).
- Referral (this is a legal requirement).
- Workcover details and claim number (if this is a Workcover claim).

[Last Updated: 17/08/2010]