



What is an OPG?

An OPG is a rotational panoramic dental x-ray that allows the dentist to view the upper and lower jaws on one film in a 2-dimensional representation.

Who does OPG and report?

The person who operates the equipment is a Radiographer. They are university trained and accredited with the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR). The person who views and interprets the films 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 OPG?

During an OPG examination you will be asked to bite down on a piece of plastic that is attached to the OPG machine. During this time the OPG machine will rotate around your head to capture the image on film.

Are there any risk or side effects from my OPG?

An OPG will expose your body to a 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 that they may be pregnant must advise the staff before the examination, as an OPG is usually not performed during pregnancy unless it is an absolute medical necessity to do so.

How do I prepare for my OPG?

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

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).

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