

Patient Information

Dental Imaging & OPG

What is Dental Imaging & OPG?

An Orthopantomography (OPG) is a simple x-ray that provides the referring clinician with an overall view of your jaws, teeth and joints. It is an excellent tool for diagnosing diseases of teeth and bone, and is generally done for most patients that require surgical, periodontal or dental treatment. An OPG is a rotational panoramic plain film dental x-ray that allows your referring practitioner to view the upper and lower jaws in a 2-dimensional format.

Cone Beam examinations are more detailed studies of the jaws, teeth and joints that are required for surgical procedures, implants, orthodontic treatment or diagnosing pathology. A Cone Beam is a low dose CT that allows imaging of the jaws in 3-dimension.

What preparation is required?

OPG and cone beam examinations can be performed without prior preparation. The radiographer may ask you to remove metal objects such as necklaces and earrings, as well as dentures as they could potentially interfere with the quality of your images.

What happens during your OPG or Cone Beam?

During an OPG or cone beam examination, the rotating arm of the machine will rotate around your head and the image is captured on film or a sensor.

How long with the test take?

An OPG image can be generated in approximately 5 minutes. A cone beam examination can be completed within approximately 15 minutes.

What is the radiation dose?

The only risk associated with these scans is the very small dose of radiation from the x-ray unit.

How much will the examination cost?

All OPG examinations are bulk billed to Medicare (no out of pocket expense to the patient.)

Cone beam examinations can attract an out of pocket fee ranging from \$100 – \$250, dependent on the complexity of the scan and whether your referring clinician is a dental generalist or specialist. If you are a holder of a pension or health care card, cone beam examinations are bulk billed to Medicare if you are referred by a dental specialist.

When can I get my results?

The images obtained are digitally recorded. At Qscan, a subspecialty trained Dental Pathologist interprets the images and provides a report for your doctor within 24 – 48 hours. You will be able to collect your images on the day or if your doctor accepts deliveries, our Qscan Couriers can deliver these directly. You may need to make a follow up appointment to discuss the results with your referring practitioner.

Where can I go for an OPG Scan?

Qscan Radiology Clinics have a range of convenient clinics located throughout South-East Queensland including: Annerley, Aspley, Brisbane City, Burleigh Waters, Carindale, Cleveland, Everton Park, Kedron, Mermaid Waters, Redcliffe, Toowong, Victoria Point and Windsor.

Cone Beam scans are available from Brisbane City and Toowong Qscan Clinics.

For further details please call one of our friendly Qscan staff on **1300 177 226** or visit us at: qscan.com.au