

OPG

Patient Information

What is an OPG?

Orthopantomogram (OPG) and Cephalometry (Lat Ceph) are specialised x-ray examinations that image your teeth, jaw and facial structures. They are taken with a specialised x-ray unit and are commonly referred to by general practitioners, dentists and facial surgeons in order to examine your teeth, jaw and facial structures.

The images may be used in the diagnosis and ongoing management of conditions affecting these structures. Precise measurements can be taken from the images for planning facial and dental surgery, removal of teeth, or the application of braces.

Why do you need an OPG?

There are various reasons for the procedure, your doctor or dentist would need to explain why it is necessary for you.

Prior to the Procedure

1. Bring your request, previous x-rays and any other relevant scans for comparison.
2. Bring your Medicare Card, Pension/Healthcare Card, Veteran's Affairs Card and insurance details if applicable.

The Procedure

OPG

1. A member of staff will explain the procedure and answer any questions that you may have.
2. You will be asked to remove all dentures and false teeth, jewellery and clothing with zippers that are close to your head.
3. You will be required to stand within the OPG unit, holding onto handlebars and biting onto a small 'bite piece' to make sure that you keep still.
4. The machine will turn slowly around your head taking the picture, this takes about 20 seconds and it is important that you keep still.

Cephalometry

1. A member of staff will explain the procedure and answer any questions that you may have.
2. You will be asked to remove all dentures and false teeth, jewellery and clothing with zippers that are close to your head.
3. You stand inside the machine; small blunt pegs that are attached to the machine are inserted gently into your ears to make sure you keep very still.
4. The x-ray is taken very quickly after which the pegs will be removed from your ears.

Results

A Radiologist (a specialist doctor trained to read x-rays) will view the images and write a report for your referring doctor or dentist.

Questions

This brochure is provided to help you understand the Orthopantomogram (OPG) and Cephalometry (Lat Ceph) procedure .

If you have any questions prior to your examination, you can speak with a member of our staff by phoning Patient Services on **132 336**

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