

# Dental x-rays

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## What is an x-ray?

X-rays pass through your body and make an image on a special type of film or an electronic detector. The image that is produced is called a radiograph.

Radiographs allow Keval to see what is happening deep inside the tooth and its roots. They will show any decay or gum disease, bone loss and, in children, how the jaw is growing.

## If you are concerned

Radiographs require tiny amounts of radiation. If you are concerned about safety, it may be helpful to know that:

- the amount of radiation involved in taking a dental x-ray photograph is very low – you are likely to be exposed to more radiation in one aeroplane flight than in a lifetime of dental radiographs
- Keval will only take radiographs if they are needed
- x-ray machines are checked regularly to make sure that they are only using the intended amount of radiation
- you can still have dental radiographs when you are pregnant, Keval may still ask you whether you are pregnant, or whether you might be, just to check in case you would rather not have an x-ray taken at that time

## When the x-ray is taken

- you will need to keep very still for a few seconds to give a clear picture

## What are the benefits?

- many forms of dental treatment rely on radiographs. Simply looking in your mouth cannot give Keval as much information as looking below the surface with x-rays
- radiographs allow Keval to check the state of previous dental work, as well as identify new problems