

Medical Imaging patient information

Orthopantogram (OPG)

What is an ORTHOPANTOGRAM? (OPG)

An OPG is an X-ray image of the teeth and jaw (mandible). This examination is useful for a general dental assessment, determining the position of wisdom teeth, and for orthodontic management.

How do I make an appointment for this procedure?

No appointment is necessary for an OPG.

What preparation is required?

None. You will be asked to remove jewellery, dentures and hairgrips at the time of the examination.

What is involved?

OPG images are taken with the patient in the standing position. You will be asked to place your chin on a chin rest and bite on a plastic bite piece with a disposable cover. The X-ray tube moves around the head, the X-ray film moves in the opposite direction behind your head. Sometimes the referring practitioner will request a "lateral cephalogram" which is an X-ray profile view of the skull, teeth, nose and jaw.

Are there any side effects?

No.

How long will this take?

One or both examinations should take no more than 15 minutes.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.** If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

Please note:

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous X-rays or Nuclear Medicine tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or MIA).

How much will this cost?

The Schedule Fee is currently applied to these examinations.

For an appointment or if you have any questions about the test please call **9508 1444**.
