

Cone Beam Radiographs

(CBCT X-RAYS)

Historically, most radiographs (X-rays) have been two-dimensional. When using 2D images, there is not the ability to see what structures go together to comprise the anatomy being radiographed.

Sophisticated 3D cone beam radiographs are available that provide far more diagnostic ability than 2D radiographs. These cone beam radiographs allow very accurate placement of dental implants. The 3D images offer your medical professional knowledge of where nerve and blood vessels are located, the density and quantity of bone, and many other previously unidentified situations.

There has been controversy and misunderstanding about the level of radiation that patients are exposed to in order to make these images. Cone beam digital images may be made in various sizes with the larger size images requiring more radiation than the smaller images. Digital dental radiographs require very minimal radiation.

As an example, observe the following data from Journal of the American Medical Association; Lancet; and the American College of Radiology (Quoted in TIME June 25, 2012)

One chest x-ray equals the following:

- 1,400 dental radiographs (These are the small dental radiographs with which you are familiar. Cone beam requires several times more radiation, but it is still very small).
- 240 five hour flights
- 70,000 back scatter airport scans
- 19 years of smoking a pack of cigarettes per day

Don't worry about the radiation.

Trust your dental practitioner to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of providing a cone beam radiograph for you.