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Digital Panoramic X-Ray Questions & Answers

A panoramic x-ray is a screening film that shows an overview of the upper and lower jaws, sinus, temporomandibular joint, and other anatomic features. We use a digital panoramic machine in our office to minimize the radiation exposure.

We use digital panoramic x-rays to screen for the following:

- Cysts, tumors, and other pathology
- Missing or extra teeth
- Impacted teeth
- Malformed permanent teeth
- Deviations in eruption patterns
- Pathology around the roots of the baby and permanent teeth

When do children usually get a digital panoramic x-ray?

Usually between 7 and 9 years old depending upon the number of permanent teeth already erupted, clinical observation of infection or abnormality, or orthodontic problems. Taking a panoramic x-ray is painless and doesn't require placement of films into your child's mouth. Even children with sensitive gag reflexes usually do fine.

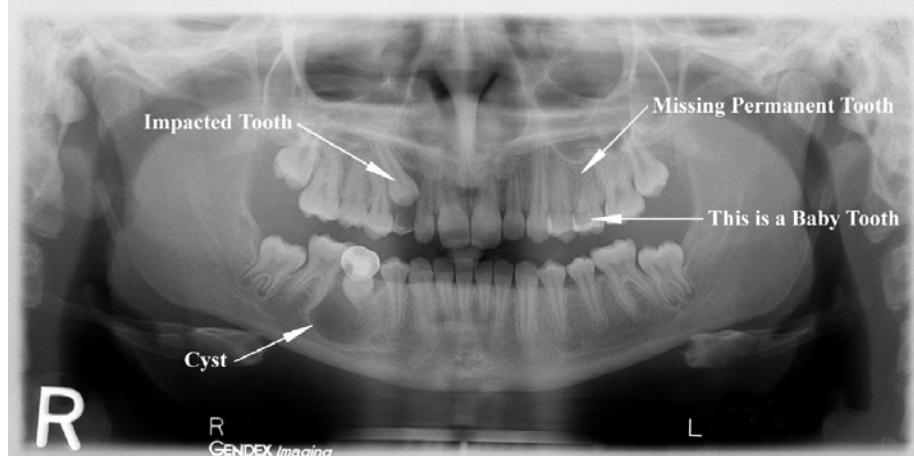
Will a digital panoramic x-ray expose my child to a lot of radiation?"

Because our panoramic x-rays are taken digitally, they have very minimal radiation exposure. The diagnostic benefits of detecting pathology, infection, and tooth abnormalities far outweigh any small exposure.

Will my insurance cover the panoramic x-ray fee?

Digital panoramic x-rays are not a special film and are considered a general screening x-ray that every patient should obtain by a certain age. Insurance should cover the fee as they would any diagnostic x-ray.

An example of a panoramic x-ray showing three different conditions that would have been missed without this x-ray:



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