



## The Perth Radiological Clinic Difference

- > a network of conveniently located community and hospital based locations
- > caring, helpful and professional staff
- > state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment
- > over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > world class digital networking between clinics provides the benefits of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which clinic you attend.

You can now request an appointment online via our website and our staff will call you back to confirm your appointment, please visit our website:

[www.perthradclinic.com.au](http://www.perthradclinic.com.au)

An appointment has been made for you

Clinic

Address

Phone

Time

Date



A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

## General and Dental X-Rays

For information regarding your appointment,  
please see the back of this leaflet.



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## What is a general x-ray or plain film, an OPG and a lateral cephalogram?

A general x-ray, sometimes called a plain film, is the most commonly performed investigation for assessing injured limbs or examining the chest for possible infection. An x-ray image, or radiograph, is produced when a very small amount of radiation passes through the body and strikes a sheet of sensitive film or a detector placed on the other side of the body. The ability of x-rays to penetrate tissues and bones varies according to the composition and mass of what is being imaged. Bone, which contains calcium, absorbs most of the radiation and results in white images on the x-ray film. The lungs, which are filled with air, allow nearly all x-rays to pass through and strike the film or detector resulting in a black image. You will not feel any discomfort during the procedure.

Dental x-rays including orthopantomograms (OPGs) and lateral cephalograms employ the same technique but take views specifically of the lower face, teeth and jaws. An OPG provides a panoramic view of the mouth, teeth and bones of the upper and lower jaws. A lateral cephalogram results in a lateral or side view of the face.



There is no special preparation required for most x-rays. Upon arrival you may be asked by the radiographer to change into a gown before your examination. You may also be asked to remove jewellery, eyeglasses, and any metal objects that may obscure the images, particularly for head, neck, face, and dental x-rays.

You will be exposed to a very small amount of radiation when you receive an x-ray. At Perth Radiological Clinic, we use advanced digital x-ray equipment to ensure you are exposed to the minimum amount of radiation needed to obtain adequate images.

If you are pregnant or suspect that you may be, you should tell your doctor or radiographer before the test is performed, as special precautions may have to be taken.

### Who will perform the examination?

The examination will be performed by a trained medical technician, called a radiographer. Radiographers are tertiary qualified technicians who specialise in the taking of x-rays and other diagnostic medical images.



### Are there any side effects?

Side effects from general or dental x-rays are incredibly rare. During your examination you will be exposed to a very small amount of radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are believed to far outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose. Perth Radiological Clinic have rigorous protocols to ensure that the radiation dose given is the lowest possible dose to produce diagnostic quality images.

### How long will the examination take?

General and dental x-rays are typically very simple procedures and most examinations would be completed within 10 - 15 minutes. In most cases you do not have to make an appointment to have a general x-ray but depending on how busy the clinic is, you may have to wait before having your examination. In some instances you may need to make an appointment for a dental x-ray.

### When is the best time to have the examination?

As there is little or no preparation required for general or dental x-rays they can be performed at any time during normal clinic hours.

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask us!