

Digital Panograph X-Ray Questions and Answers

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A panograph is a single screening X-Ray showing an overview of the upper and lower jaws, sinus, temporomandibular joint, and other anatomic features. We use a state-of-the-art Digital Panograph machine in our office.

We use digital panographs to screen for the following in our pediatric practice:

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

When do children usually get a digital panograph?

Most children are between 7 and 9 years old. It depends on the number of permanent teeth they have in already, clinical observation of infection or abnormalities, and orthodontic problems such as crowding. Taking a panograph is painless and does not require placing films into a child's mouth. Even children with sensitive gag reflexes generally do fine.

Will a digital panograph expose my child to a lot of radiation?

Because panographs are taken digitally, they have very minimal exposure. The medical benefits far outweigh the very minor risks of missing pathology, infection, and tooth abnormalities.

Will my insurance cover the panograph fee?

Digital panographs 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 panograph taken in our practice showing three different conditions that would have been missed without this x-ray:

