

## “But do I really need a dental x-ray?”



If you think you can't afford x-rays this time around, just think about whether you can afford to skip them...

In the United States 29,600 people will be diagnosed with oral cancer each year and 7,925 will die from it.

Besides tobacco consumption, drinking more than 3 oz. of alcohol a day (2 beers per day) puts you at an increased risk for oral cancer.

Only 1 out of every 2 people diagnosed with oral cancer will survive up to 5 years.

In the early stages, oral cancer is usually not painful. This is the ideal time for your dentist to identify it in the mouth or by x-ray. Without regular dental x-rays, also called radiographs, it's no surprise that by the time it's detected, the cancer will have grown, perhaps spread, and survival rates drop.

Dental radiographs are the only way your dentist can see if tumors are growing in your jaws and beneath the surface of your gums. They are also the way of detected very small areas of decay before they cause significant tooth damage.

Dental radiographs give your dentist a "map" to guide their diagnosis and treatment. Without it, they are "going in blind" and you cannot be guaranteed of a successful result.

### **Why have we gone digital?**

Traditional x-rays or radiographs expose you and our team to radiation, they are time consuming, require chemicals to process and are not very computer compatible. At Anzac Avenue Dental, we use only digital x-ray. The dose of radiation you receive is up to 90% less than with a conventional x-ray, it takes only a couple of seconds for the image to reach the computer and it requires no chemicals. Digital x-ray uses a very small sensor that is held over your tooth, and transfers the image to the computer. Your dentist can then manipulate the images for better diagnosis and can store the x-rays on file for later treatment. While the cost to you is actually less because it is a quicker process, digital x-ray is a very expensive tool to buy, and many dentists do not offer it because of this. At Anzac Avenue Dental, we believe that the benefits far out way the cost and we are proud to be able to offer you this state of the art technology.