



MODERN DENTISTRY in the NEWS

Digital X-Rays: Providing More Effective, Efficient and Safer Dental Scans

Cutting-edge digital X-rays provide clearer, more accurate images while reducing unnecessary radiation by up to 90 percent.

Dental X-rays have long been central to the provision of comprehensive, high quality oral health care. While their clinical value is unquestioned in detecting, identifying and treating a wide range of dental issues, medical practitioners have recently begun looking for ways to lower patients' exposure to radiation from traditional X-rays. With new dental X-ray technology shown to reduce radiation by up to 90 percent, Texas' Dental Services Organizations (DSOs) are proud to be bringing clearer, more accurate and safer images to Texas patients.

ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL X-RAYS INCLUDE:

CLINICAL BENEFITS:

- More accurate and earlier diagnoses – often helping patients avoid more complex and avoidable procedures such as root canals.
- Images can be magnified, sharpened, colorized or displayed as a negative in order to optimize the picture and assist in making a more precise diagnosis.
- Digital systems reduce radiation exposure to patients by up to 90 percent compared to film-based systems, conforming to the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle, which mandates that every possible method of reducing radiation exposure should be used to minimize risk.

- Electronic sharing of patient images among dentists allows for improved coordination of care and sharing of best practices.
- Digital systems save time for dentists, producing pictures ready to view in less than one second, allowing the dentist to proceed more quickly with clinical diagnosis, decision making and treatment.

COST BENEFITS:

- The annual cost of materials for a single, traditional X-ray (assuming 50 films a day, five days a week, 45 weeks a year) equals approximately the entire cost of a basic digital X-ray system.
- Film-based X-ray systems are considerably more labor-intensive than digital X-ray, resulting in higher overall labor costs.

- Traditional X-ray systems have higher consumables costs, such as film developer and fixer solutions.
- Digital X-rays are quickly and easily sent to other dentists or insurers via e-mail, with no paper or postage costs necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

- Digital X-rays reduce the use of harsh chemicals and other waste materials associated with traditional X-rays, which provides added benefit to the environment, especially in regard to disposal.