Dental Radiographic Examinations: Recommendations for Patient Selection and Limiting Radiation Exposure

American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Scientific Affairs/and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Revised: 2012

The key change from 2004 ADA-FDA guidelines is stronger support/recommendation for rectangular collimation which has been the existing practice in central radiology and most satellite clinics for the previous ~ 15 years.

The college’s policy review

Rationale
Since a rectangular collimator in combination with the fastest receptor decreases the radiation dose by up to fivefold as compared with circular one and a slower receptor, radiographic equipment should provide rectangular collimation for exposure of periapical and bitewing radiographs. Rectangular collimation can also improve contrast by reducing fogging caused by secondary and scattered radiation.

Limiting Radiation Dose - Summary
Even though radiation dose from dental radiographs is low, it is the dentist’s responsibility to follow the ALARA Principle (As Low as Reasonably Achievable) to minimize the patient’s exposure. Examples of good radiologic practice include:

- use of the fastest image receptor compatible with the diagnostic task (F-speed film or digital);
- collimation of the beam to the size of the receptor whenever feasible;
- proper image exposure and processing techniques;
- use of protective aprons and thyroid collars, when appropriate; and limiting the number of images obtained to the minimum necessary to obtain essential diagnostic information.

UF College of Dentistry Compliance
Compliance Audits by Clinical Administration Staff for all UFCD radiology units. Non-compliance will be shared with Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and Dean for a corrective action plan.

FAQ - Timing/Frequency of Films
NCRP Report No. 145, page 80: “No routine time-based formula for obtaining radiographs will be applicable to all patients in a dental practice. Thus, judgments made for the care of a specific patient, including radiographic examination, can be made only by using training and experience to integrate data into a comprehensive understanding of that patient’s needs.”

ADA/FDA
“The needs of each patient for diagnosis will determine the frequency of x-ray examinations and not the period of time elapsed since the last visit.”

Meet the Clinic Admin Team

Carol M. Stewart MS, DDS, MS
Interim Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences
Dr. Stewart joined the college in 1985 and previously held the role of Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs from 1999 to 2002.

Carrie Thurman
Secretary
Carrie is the proud mother of three young men, the oldest will graduate high school this year and has enlisted in the ARMY as a Four Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic.

Richelle Janiec, BS, Ag (Nutrition), EFDA, CDA, RDH
Director of Clinical Operations
Richelle has worked at the college since the Ides of March in 2005.

Jerri Wainer, EFDA
Patient Advocate
Jerri has been with the college for 18 years. She has a passion for horses and has rescued a few including a Mustang she named Sallie.
Stephanie Scrambling, EFDA
Compliance Manager (Sterilization, Safety and Infection Prevention, axiUm orientation for Students)
Stephanie has worked at the college for six years and is also working towards attaining a bachelor’s degree in health services administration.

Lee Mintz, CDT
Leasing Manager
Lee has been with the college 28.5 years. In addition to being a very good lab technician with maxillofacial prosthodontic training, Lee is also an Eagle Scout.

Marilyn Vaughn, EFDA
Educational Resource Manager (Sim Lab)
Marilyn has worked at the college for six years. She is very crafty with arts and baking… and we love it when she demonstrates her skills.

Eric Weber
Educational Resource Manager (Laboratory case management, Clinic Admin axiUm)
Eric has been with the college for seven years. This is a great time to extend our gratitude to Eric for his service in the U.S. Army to our country, below are the medals he earned while he was enlisted: Combat Action Badge; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Medal; Order of the Spur.

Craig Kirkbride, AA Business, BA Bible/Systematic Theology, MA Theology
Program Assistant (TED Funds/Patient Access/Reporting & axiUm Training)
Craig has worked with the college for 15 years. He has been developing his skills with the craft of pottery for the past several years and you may see some of his work in his office or in D2-46A.

Butch Dees
Dental Maintenance
Butch has worked for the college for 37 years and, as a result, knows pretty much everything about everything. Butch likes to take to the open road for motorcycle runs.

Charles Lesch
Dental Maintenance
Charles has worked for the college for 21 years. Charles and his wife, Brynn, are raising a beautiful grandson, Logan, who is seven years old. Charles has attended college dental mission trips to Honduras, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

Contacting Clinic Administration:
Call 352-273-6820