

CONE BEAM CT SCAN

This form aims to answer any questions related to having a dental cone beam computerized tomography (CT) scan. It will also answer the benefits, risks and alternatives with relation to this treatment, as well as describe what you can expect at the radiology clinic.

SO, WHAT IS DENTAL CONE BEAM CT SCAN?

A dental cone beam CT scanner uses x-rays and a computer to produce 3D cross sectional images of the jaws and teeth. It is a compact, as well as faster and safer version of the traditional CT scanner. The radiation dosage, as well as time needed to complete the scan, are both significantly reduced through the use of a cone shaped x-ray beam.

The scanner moves around your head in a circular motion, in a similar way to the very common panoramic dental radiography unit, used in most dental offices, surgeries and hospitals.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A DENTAL CONE BEAM CT SCAN (CBCT)?

You will stand or sit in the CBCT machine, your head will be carefully positioned and you will be asked to keep absolutely still while the scan is in progress. The positioning and set up takes a couple of minutes, however the scan itself takes only a minute or so. More than 1 scan may be required depending on the nature of your examination. The whole procedure should not take more than about 30 minutes.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE A DENTAL CBCT?

The scan will provide us with critical and detailed information which cannot be obtained from traditional x-rays. For example, if you are being considered for dental implants or other special procedures, the scan will enable us to accurately assess the exact shape, density and volume of the bone.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CBCT scans are low dose examinations and give an x-ray dose to the patient that is considerable less than a medical CT scan. A medical CT scan of the upper jaw delivers a radiation dose equivalent to approximately 179-578 days of background radiation (the radiation constantly present in the environment). A CBCT scan of the entire jaw would be comparable to approximately 12-30 days of normal background radiation.

As with any x-ray examinations, please inform the radiographer if you are or may be pregnant.

ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVES?

No. Without this examination, it may not be possible to accurately assess the bone which could compromise your treatment.

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR MY DENTAL CBCT?

Before your scan, you will be asked to remove any glasses, dentures, hearing aids, earrings, tongue studs, necklaces, hair clips and any other metal accessories that may affect the scan. This is not an examination that requires any injections or special preparations beforehand. If you are having the scan for dental implant planning, you may be asked by your dentist, to bring a localisation stent with you. This is a special “plate” which you will wear similar to a denture, which contains markers to guide or x-ray examination. You will only be required to wear this during the scan.

WILL I FEEL ANY PAIN?

This procedure is not painful, but you will need to remain still for the duration of the scan (lasting approximately 1 minute). If you are claustrophobic, please mention this to your radiographer so that they can offer you appropriate support and advice.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY CBCT SCAN?

You are able to go home immediately following the examination. The CBCT will be reported by the radiologists and the report will be forwarded to your referring dentist.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO AFTER I GO HOME?

No special aftercare is required, and you will be able to eat, drink and continue with your regular daily routine.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CBCT SCAN AND WHO PAYS FOR IT?

The cost of the CBCT scan can vary depending on the size of the area being examined as well as the complexity of the site under investigation, but can range from \$150-\$500. Speak to the radiology clinic prior to your appointment for the exact cost. The CBCT scan fees are to be paid in full by the individual being scanned (yourself), and not by the dentist or denturist who has referred you for the scan.



GIVING MY CONSENT

The information in this document is designed to assist in the understanding of this examination and any associated benefits, risk and alternatives to this treatment. If there is anything you do not fully understand, or you require additional time to think about it, please inform your practitioner.

Always remember, it is your decision and if you change your mind at any time, please let us know immediately. Your wishes and concerns will be respected at all times. If you would like to read our consent policy, you can also request this at any time.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please call Dr. Lenga or Steve Bruno at your convenience.

MY APPOINTMENT:

Location: _____

Contact Person: _____

Date and Time: _____