

Dental X-Rays – What lies beneath?

Most periodic visits to the dentist include a cleaning, an exam and dental x-rays. You may find yourself asking, “Didn’t we take some not too long ago, what’s wrong with those?” The answer is usually yes and nothing. X-rays provide your dentist with valuable information about your underlying skeleton that may otherwise go un-detected. They are not taken to see how long you will tolerate biting down on an annoying piece of plastic!

Often time’s areas of dental decay (cavities) between the teeth and under existing fillings are only seen with x-rays. These images also play an important role in your dental record. Like a photo album of your old Halloween costumes, x-rays can give a dentist a look into the past. A review of previous images allows your dentist to monitor and track the presence or absence of something lurking in the shadows.

Although cavities are frequently detected here are some other conditions/structures that can be revealed with dental x-rays:

Periodontal disease- bone infections

Abscesses or cysts-dental infections

Bone Pathologies- tooth related cyst or tumors

Developmental abnormalities- extra or missing teeth

Anatomical structures- nerves, sinuses and TMJ

Given today’s economy, cost is almost always a factor. For those with dental benefits a full series of dental x-rays is often covered every 3-5 years and a limited series every 6-12 months. Before you let the prices scare you, you may want to inquire at your next visit. Early detection of these conditions may result in simple monitoring or conservative treatment.

Lastly, please have a safe and Happy Halloween!

You may contact our office for comments or questions.

Timothy P. Cadden DDS
Peter O. Calderon DDS
631 S. Wheeling St.
Oregon, Ohio 43616
419-693-1234
drcadden.com