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## *Your Dental Health ... News and Info*

### **Digital Radiographs**

Over the past ten years there have been some very significant advancements in dental x-rays (radiographs) the biggest being the development of digital x-rays. Digital x-rays offer a number of quality increases to the dentists like immediate access to the image, the ability to magnify, color enhance, rotate and shift images but most important of all in up to a 70% - 90% decrease in radiation exposure for the patient.

The current standard of care for an adult patient is a full mouth series of x-rays every 3 years, this is 18 total x-rays and a set of 4 bite wing x-rays every year. This on top of additionally needed x-rays for emergency or diagnostic purposes can expose the patient to a lot of x-ray radiation. This is often the chief concern I have from patients in need of x-rays and where the new digital systems are so nice.

Conventional dental x-rays have always used a very small amount of radiation in comparison to an x-ray you may have one your arm to rule out a fracture. All 18 x-rays that are part of a full mouth series equals about ½ half the radiation a person would have if they were to have their arm x-rayed at their physician's office or hospital. In comparison a full mouth series of digital x-rays (18 film), which is only 10% of the radiation of conventional dental x-rays, would only be 5% of the radiation a person would be exposed to in comparison to an x-ray of their arm. Conventional wisdom estimates the amount of radiation exposure in a full mouth series of digital x-rays equal to 3-5 minutes of sun exposure here in beautiful Florida.

These advancements increase availability, quality and diagnostic capabilities of dental x-rays, while also protecting the patients. We here at the Center for Premier Dentistry are proud to admit we have been utilizing digital x-rays since the year 2000 and have just complete upgraded our systems in our new state of the art facility. If you are interested in seeing these advancements or are interested in seeing or speaking with one of the dentists e-mail or call our office and we will be happy to accommodate you.