

Radiographs (X-rays) and Pubescent Young Women

Radiographs (x-rays) are a necessary part of the dental exam. Radiation from radiographs is kept at a minimum to keep the patient safe. Young women who have gone through puberty and are sexually active have a risk of pregnancy. Although the radiation is extremely low, there is a very small risk to the developing baby.

Since we have no way of knowing if a young woman is in early pregnancy, we will discreetly have her sign a document stating she is not pregnant. If the patient declares herself to be pregnant or the possibility exists, radiographs will not be taken unless there is a carious lesion (cavity) or high suspicion that there is a carious lesion (cavity) that must have a radiograph to determine the extent. This document is confidential. The document will only be given to young women 14 years of age or older. It reads as follows:

Pregnancy Disclosure

(This statement of disclosure is given confidentially to all female patients 14 years of age and older.)

Exposure to radiation through dental x-rays may be harmful to a developing baby. It is important for our office to know if you are or may be pregnant to determine if the x-rays are absolutely necessary or if they may be delayed until the birth of the baby. If exposure is necessary at this time, please be confident that everything will be done to assure the safety of your developing baby.

This statement is confidential between the patient and the dental professionals.

I, _____, have read and understand the above statement and declare that there is not a possibility that I may be pregnant.

Signature

Date