

SETTING

Pre-procedure Waiting Area in a Dental Hospital

PATIENT

You have been having tooth and jaw pain. Your dentist has referred you for a scan to check for impacted molar teeth (wisdom teeth).

TASK

- When asked, explain to the radiographer that you are unsure of the purpose of the scan.
- Ask for clarification (e.g. what is an impacted molar tooth?).
- Ask what the procedure involves (e.g. what is an OPG?).
- When asked, find out what you will have to do during the OPG.

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RADIOGRAPHER

This patient has been referred by his/her dentist to check for impacted molar teeth. The examination required by the referral is an OPG (orthopantomogram).

TASK

- Check whether the patient understands the purpose of the scan.
- Explain to the patient what an impacted molar tooth is (i.e., a tooth cannot reach its normal position in the mouth because it is blocked by another tooth.).
- Explain what an OPG is (i.e., orthopantomogram or dental panoramic radiograph), and describe what the procedure involves (i.e., moving camera to get view of entire mouth).
- Summarise your explanations and find out what further information the patient needs.
- Explain to the patient that he/she will need to:
 - be standing up.
 - place his/her chin on a bar and hold a clip between his/her teeth.
 - use head stabilisers to keep very still during the scan (30 seconds).