

Kodak

X-rays in Dentistry

The object of this book is to provide the dentist with a set of standardized procedures that will help him to produce radiographs of uniformly high quality. Accordingly, the main body of the book, which consists of the second and third sections, is devoted to these procedures. The first section of the book gives the information about X-rays and X-ray equipment that is essential for anyone making dental radiographs; the reader's attention is particularly drawn to the recommendations on safety procedure (page 5) and to the information on the interconversion of exposure values (also page 5). The latter will be needed by those whose X-ray apparatus operates at a kilovoltage and milliamperage different from the standard values used in this book.

Contents

	Page		Page
Introduction	3	Mandibular bicuspid region	22
X-rays	3	Mandibular molar region	23
Dental X-ray equipment	3	The interproximal examination	24
Operation of dental X-ray machines	4	Purpose	24
Safety procedure	5	Head position	24
Exposure factors	5	Positioning the 'Bite-Wing' film packet	24
		Central-ray projection	24
Intra-oral radiography	7	Incisor—cuspid region	25
General considerations	7	Bicuspid—molar region	26
Films	7	The occlusal examination	27
Preliminary inspection	8	Purpose	27
Positioning the patient	8	The intra-oral cassette	27
Positioning the film packet	8	Head positions	27
Angulation of the X-ray tube	9	Positioning the occlusal film packet or cassette	28
Immobilization	9	Central-ray projection	28
Exposure	9	Maxillary incisor region	29
The periapical examination	10	Maxillary cuspid—molar region	30
Purpose	10	Entire maxillary denture	31
Film requirements	10	Mandibular molar region	32
Head positions	10	Entire mandibular denture	33
Positioning the periapical film packet	11		
Central-ray projection : vertical angle	11	Extra-oral radiography	34
Central-ray projection : horizontal angle	13	General considerations	34
Maxillary central-incisor region	15	Films	34
Maxillary lateral-incisor region	16	Preparation of film for exposure	36
Maxillary cuspid region	17	Loading exposure holder or cassette	36
Maxillary bicuspid region	18	Ramus of mandible (lateral oblique)	37
Maxillary molar region	19	Body of mandible (lateral oblique)	38
Mandibular incisor region	20		
Mandibular cuspid region	21		

Introduction

X-rays

X-rays are produced when fast-moving electrons collide with matter. The following of their properties are of significance to the dental radiographer:

- 1) They can penetrate matter to an extent dependent on its density and thickness.
- 2) They travel in straight lines.
- 3) They can produce a developable image on film.
- 4) They can produce changes, both somatic and genetic, in living tissues.
- 5) When they impinge on matter, some of the rays are scattered in random directions.
- 6) They are not detectable by the human senses.

The first three of these properties are useful in radiography; the last three necessitate great caution in the use of X-rays.

Dental X-ray equipment

The dental X-ray tube (see Figure 1) is an evacuated glass envelope containing a cathode (the source of the electrons), and an anode (the target or focus at which they are directed). The electrons are emitted from a heated filament within the cathode, and are accelerated from the cathode to the anode by a very high voltage applied between the two. From the target area of the anode, X-rays are emitted in all directions.

The tube is surrounded by a heavy metal housing that absorbs all the X-rays except for a narrow beam, which is allowed to escape through a window or portal. The beam is further limited, to the minimum area necessary for the work being done, by a diaphragm. This is a heavy-metal disc with a circular hole, which can be fitted in front of the tube window. The window is also covered with an aluminium filter, which absorbs the least-penetrating X-rays; these would otherwise be absorbed or scattered by the patient's skin.

The plastics cone fitted in front of the tube is merely a positioning device and has no focusing or directional action on the X-ray beam. The point of the cone indicates the middle of the X-ray beam, normally termed the central ray.

	Page		Page
Mandible (postero-anterior)	39	Development	50
Facial profile (bone and soft tissue)	40	Rinse	50
Temporo-mandibular articulation	42	Fixing	51
		Washing	51
		Drying	51
Processing	43		
The darkroom	43		
Equipment	45	Other information	52
Safelamps	45	Mounting intra-oral radiographs	52
Processing tanks	46	Filing radiographs	52
Processing hangers	47	Typical faulty radiographs	52
Thermometer	47	Weak image	52
Tank immersion heater	47	Dark image	53
Timer	47	Blurred image	53
Illuminator	48	Herringbone pattern	53
Processing chemicals	48	Partial image	54
Developer	48	Fog	54
Developer replenisher	48	Black line	55
Fixer	48	Crimp mark	55
Processing preliminaries	48	Static marks	55
Cleanliness	49	Fixer splashes	55
Preparation of solutions	49	Dark streaks	56
Temperature control	49	Double exposure	56
Preparation of film for processing	50	Black specks	56
Processing procedure	50	Emulsion stripping	56