



American Dental Association
www.ada.org

Contacts:

Fred Peterson, 312-440-2855, petersonf@ada.org

Leslee Williams, 312-440-2592, williamsle@ada.org

ADA: Dental X-Rays Should Be Used Sparingly to Reduce Radiation Risk

CHICAGO—The American Dental Association's (ADA) long-standing position is that dentists should order x-rays for patients only if absolutely necessary for diagnosis.

The ADA recently updated its x-ray guidelines, recommending that dentists follow the ALARA principle (As Low as Reasonably Achievable).

And since 1989, the ADA has published recommendations that encouraged the use of abdominal shielding (e.g., protective aprons) and thyroid collars on all patients to minimize radiation exposure.

The association fully supports continuing research that helps dentists deliver high-quality oral health care safely and effectively.

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The not-for-profit American Dental Association is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 152,000 members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer and professional products. For more information about the ADA, visit the Association's Web site at www.ada.org.

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