



## CBCT SCANS

### General Description

A CBCT scan, also known as Cone Beam Computerised Tomography, is an x-ray technique that produces 3D images of your skull that allows visualisation of internal bony structures in cross section rather than as overlapping images typically produced by conventional x-ray exams. CBCT scans are primarily used to visualise bony structures, such as teeth and your jaws, not soft tissue such as your tongue or gums.

### Procedure

You will be positioned in the CBCT machine. Your head will be carefully placed and you will be asked to keep absolutely still while the scan is taken. The positioning takes a few minutes but each scan takes only a minute or so. The machine moves around your head in a circular motion in a similar way to the panoramic dental radiography unit which is commonly used in dental surgeries and hospitals, which you may have already experienced.

### Advantages of a CBCT Scan Over Conventional x-rays

A conventional x-ray of your mouth limits your dentist to a twodimensional or 2D visualisation. Diagnosis and treatment plan can require a more complete understanding of complex threedimensional or 3D anatomy. CBCT examinations provide a wealth of 3D information

which may be used when planning for dental implants, surgical extractions, maxillofacial surgery and advanced dental restorative procedures.

Benefits of CBCT scans include:

- a) Higher accuracy when planning implant placement surgery.
- b) Greater chance for diagnosing conditions such as vertical root fractures that can be missed on conventional x-ray films.
- c) Greater chance of providing images and information which may result in the patient avoiding unnecessary dental treatment.
- d) Better diagnosis of third molar (wisdom teeth) positioning in proximity to vital structures such as nerves and blood vessels prior to removal.

### Radiation

CBCT scans like conventional x-rays expose you to radiation. At Gunning Dental, the dose of radiation used for CBCT examinations is carefully controlled to ensure the smallest possible amount used will still give a useful result.

### How Can I Prepare for a Dental CBCT?

Before your CBCT is undertaken you will be asked to remove glasses, dentures, hearing aids, earrings, tongue studs, necklaces, hair clips and any other metal accessories that may affect the scan. This is



## Restorative Treatment

not an examination that requires any injections or special preparations beforehand. You may be asked to use a localisation stent which is a special 'plate' that you will wear rather like a denture, containing markers to guide our x-ray examination. You will only need to wear this during the scan.

## Pregnancy

In some cases women who are pregnant should not undergo a CBCT scan due to the potential danger to the foetus. Please tell the dentist if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

## Diagnosis of Non-Dental Conditions

While parts of your anatomy beyond your mouth and jaw may be evident from the scan, your dentist may not be qualified to diagnose conditions that may be present in those areas. If any abnormalities, asymmetries, or common pathologic conditions are noted upon viewing the CBCT scan, it may become necessary to send the scan to an Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist for further diagnosis.

## A summary of Gunning Dental

As a summary of the guarantee process, Gunning Dental guarantees the following treatments in the

following circumstances:

### 1. Dental Implant Treatment

For non-smokers with no previously treated periodontal (gum) disease, Gunning Dental will guarantee dental implants and their restorations for ten years providing patients attend Gunning Dental for recommended maintenance appointments throughout the entire ten year period or (if appropriate) attend their General Dental Practitioner for similar maintenance appointments.

If attending the patient's General Dental Practitioner this must be agreed in advance by Gunning Dental

2. For patients with previously treated gum disease, as defined at assessment, Gunning Dental will provide a five year guarantee for dental implant treatment as above with similar conditions applying.

3. For smokers or patients who have recently stopped smoking, Gunning Dental will offer a five year guarantee on dental implants, similar to the conditions in point one.

4. On restorative treatment for crowns, veneers, inlays and onlays we will provide a five year guarantee.

5. CEREC restorations are given a five year guarantee.

6. On failure of an endodontic treatment within five years Gunning Dental will offer an extraction of the tooth as required free of charge.