

# AUSTIN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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**Where will I go for the Dental Cone Beam CT?**

**One of the bolded locations above**

**What is Dental Cone Beam CT?**

Dental cone beam computed tomography (“CBCT”) is a special type of x-ray machine used in situations where regular dental or facial x-rays are not sufficient. This type of CT scanner uses a special type of technology to generate three dimensional (3-D) images of dental structures, soft tissues, nerve paths and bone in the craniofacial region in a single scan. Images obtained with CBCT allow for more precise treatment planning.

CBCT is not the same as conventional CT. However, dental CBCT can be used to produce images that are similar to those produced by conventional CT imaging. With CBCT, an x-ray beam in the shape of a cone is moved around the patient to produce a large number of images, also called views. CT scans and CBCT both produce high-quality images.

Dental CBCT was developed as a means of producing similar types of images but with a much smaller and less expensive machine that could be placed in the dentist's office. CBCT provides detailed images of the bone and is performed to evaluate diseases of the jaw, dentition, and bony structures of the face, nasal cavity and sinuses. It does not provide the full diagnostic information available with conventional CT, particularly in evaluation of soft tissue structures such as muscles, lymph nodes, glands and nerves. However, CBCT has the advantage of lower radiation exposure compared to conventional CT.

**What are some common uses of the procedure?**

Dental CBCT is commonly used for treatment planning of orthodontic issues. It is also useful for more complex cases that involve:

- surgical planning for impacted teeth.
- diagnosing temporomandibular joint disorder (TMJ).
- accurate placement of dental implants.
- evaluation of the jaw, sinuses, nerve canals and nasal cavity.
- detecting, measuring and treating jaw tumors.
- determining bone structure and tooth orientation.
- locating the origin of pain or pathology.
- cephalometric analysis.
- reconstructive surgery.

**How should I prepare?**

Plan to be in the office for 15 – 20 minutes. You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to your exam.

Metal objects may affect the CT images. Therefore, we ask that you do not wear or remove everything that you may be wearing above the neck including, but not limited to:

- Hats and other head coverings.
- Jewelry including necklaces and piercings of any type including tongue, facial and ear
- Hair accessories that contain any amount of metal
- Hearing Aids
- Glasses
- Removable dental appliances including retainers, flipper, partial denture, full dentures