



Dental Technique Charts

Technique charts are tables that contain settings to be selected on the x-ray control for a specific anatomical part. These factors control the amount of radiation delivered to the patient and to the film. When the technique chart has been developed properly and the film processing is optimized, the selection from the technique chart will ensure the least amount of radiation for the optimum film density and produce a consistently good-quality radiograph.

In intraoral radiography, it is common to have a “fixed” kVp and mA, leaving only one variable, the time. If the vendor who calibrated the x-ray unit lists a maximum technique, it does not mean that it is to be used on everyone. The maximum technique should mean that going above that will exceed the amount allowed for a bitewing. However, if the patient is very large or when exposing a posterior molar, exceeding that maximum may be necessary to produce a quality radiograph.



Minnesota Rules on Ionizing Radiation require that technique charts for all intraoral radiography list the bitewing technique, the patient size (small, medium, large for adults) and a setting for pediatrics. The speed of the film you use is also to be listed on the technique chart. (The pan and ceph units need technique charts, too.) Remember to update your technique charts when you change to a different film, new unit, or new screens.

Digital radiography for dentistry is becoming more popular. You must have a technique chart for the digital units as well.