Ideal Photographs And Radiographs
- Teeth in occlusion
- Lips relaxed and in contact
- Natural head position with eyes looking forward
- Entire head and neck displayed
- Left eyelash slightly visible
- Approximate center of frame is 1.0 cm anterior to tragus
- White, or light, background
• Patient simply turns to face the camera
• Eyes are open and looking into camera
• Ears exposed
• No distracting eyewear or jewelry
• Inter-pupillary line horizontal to the frame
• Approximate center of frame is the tip of the nose
• Use the same format as the non-smiling frontal photograph adding a natural smile (social smile)
• Occlusal plane should be horizontal and bisecting the photograph
• There should be equal display of the posterior dentition
• Teeth in occlusion
• Anteriorly- should display the entire ipsilateral maxillary central incisor at minimum
• Posteriorly- include the entire first molars at minimum
• All attached gingiva should be visible
• Occlusal plane should be parallel to the frame
Use the same format as for the right lateral intraoral photograph
• Mid-palatal raphe centered
• Frame the entire arch with minimal lateral soft tissue displayed
• Fill the frame with the entire mandibular arch at least through the first molars
• Labial surface of the central incisors parallel to the bottom of the frame
• Midline centered in the frame
• Right mirror photograph flipped horizontally to appear as a direct photograph of the right side
• Extend view to second molars if possible
- Left mirror photograph: same requirements as right side occluded view
Ideal Cephalometric Radiograph

- Full soft tissue is displayed
- Strongly recommend occipital region be visible
- Head is in natural position with Frankfort Horizontal plane parallel to the floor
Ideal Panoramic Radiograph

- Patient orientation is correct
- Properly labeled (right & left)
- Correct exposure
Problem Photographs and Radiographs
• Poor diagnostic photograph with distractions and shadow creating double profile
• Prefer white background
• Patient too distant from the camera
• Head rotated and patient looking away from camera
• Distracting jewelry
• Hair covering ears with no visible landmarks
• Photograph should be cropped to display only face and neck area
• Photograph too dark
• Not a diagnostic profile view
• Distractions: jewelry and shadows present
• Improperly cropped
• Patient looking up and to the side
• Mirror image not corrected to represent patient’s right side
- Poor contrast
- Head is not in horizontal position
- Teeth are not in occlusion
- Soft tissue profile, occiput, and symphysis not visible
• Radiograph overexposed
• Symphysis not visible due to improper patient positioning
• Identification of right and left reversed
• Jewelry present
• Poor patient positioning causing distortion of the maxilla and mandible
• Excessive display of vertebral column
Poor patient positioning causing:

- Distortion of dental arches
- Condyles not visible
- Anterior teeth obscured