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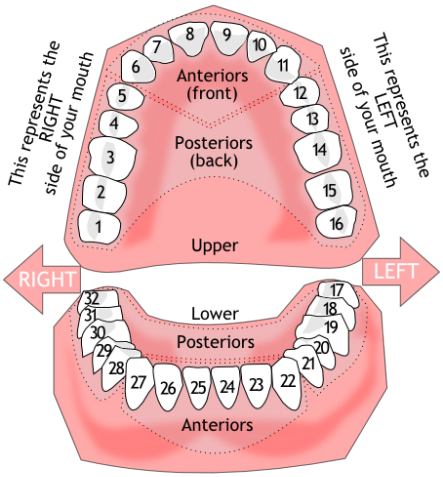
Dental Anatomy

Adults

- Numbering systems have been developed to have a standard way of referring to particular teeth.
- Tooth number 1 is the tooth farthest back on the right side of your mouth in the upper (maxillary) jaw.
- If you are missing your wisdom teeth (the molars farthest back in your mouth), your first number will be 2 instead of 1, acknowledging the missing tooth.
- Numbering continues along your upper teeth toward the front and across to the tooth farthest back on the top left side (which is number 16).
- The numbers continue by dropping down to the lower (mandibular) jaw. Number 17 is the tooth farthest back on the left side of your mouth on the bottom.
- Numbering continues again toward the front and across to the tooth farthest back on the bottom right side of your mouth (which is number 32).
- If the tooth was removed or teeth are missing, the missing teeth will be numbered as well.

Children

- Universal Numbering System for children uses the letters A through T instead of numbers 1 through 20. So, a child's first tooth on the upper right would be A. The last tooth on the lower right would be T.



Disclaimer: This suggested policy is provided for informational purposes only and should be reviewed and customized to fit the specific needs and legal requirements of your dental office; it does not constitute legal advice.

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Basic Anatomy Of The Mouth

Gums (Gingiva):
- Soft tissue surrounding and supporting the teeth.
- Protects the roots of teeth and helps hold them in place.

Tongue:
- Muscular organ inside the mouth.
- Essential for speaking, swallowing, and tasting food.

Palate:
- The roof of the mouth.
- Separates the mouth from the nasal passages and aids in speech and swallowing.
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Uvula:
- A small, fleshy extension hanging down from the back of the soft palate.
- Plays a role in speech and helps prevent food from entering the nasal passages during swallowing.

Alveolar Ridge:
- The bony ridge that contains the sockets of the teeth.
- Supports the teeth and gives shape to the mouth.

Floor of the Mouth:
- The area under the tongue.
- Contains important structures like the submandibular salivary glands and the openings of the sublingual salivary glands.

Tooth Surfaces

Incisal Surface:
- Location: The biting edge of front teeth (incisors).
- Use: This surface helps you cut and nip your food into smaller pieces, making it easier to chew and swallow.

Occlusal Surface:

- Location: The flat chewing surface of molars and premolars.
- Use: When you chew, this surface grinds and crushes your food, turning it into a texture that's easier to swallow.

Palatal Surface (Maxillary) / Lingual Surface (Mandibular):

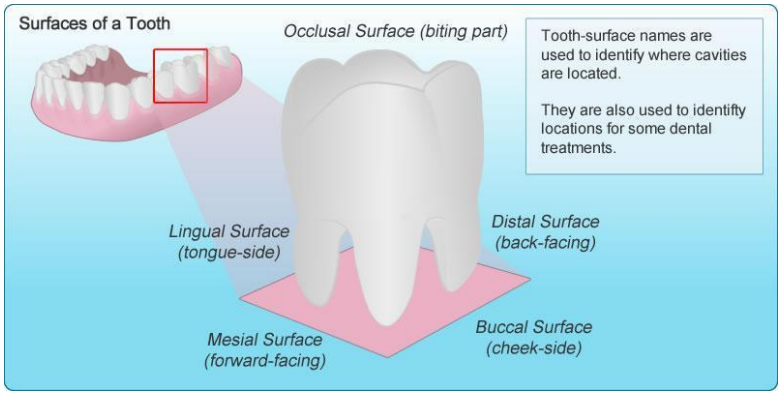
- Palatal Surface: Found on the inner side of upper teeth, facing the palate.
- Lingual Surface: On the inner side of lower teeth, facing the tongue.
- Use: These surfaces help move the food around while you're eating and speaking, aiding in the digestion process.

Mesial and Distal Surfaces:

- Mesial Surface: The side of the tooth facing towards the front of your mouth.
- Distal Surface: The side facing towards the back of your mouth.
- Use: These surfaces play a role when your teeth touch each other, helping to align your bite and providing stability.

Buccal Surface:

- Location: The outer side of back teeth, facing your cheeks.
- Use: When you chew, this surface comes into contact with your cheeks, assisting in the chewing process and contributing to the overall efficiency of chewing.



Clinical Term: Basic Radiographs/X-rays

Periapical view (PA): Think of it as a snapshot of the whole tooth and its surroundings. Dentists take this picture to see the tip of the tooth's root and the bone around it. It's like

looking at the bottom part of the tooth. This helps the dentist find out why a tooth might be hurting. Periapical comes from Greek words that mean "around" and "tip."

Bitewing view (BW): Imagine looking at the top part of a tooth with a little paper or plastic tab in the middle of the picture. This view helps the dentist see the crowns of the back teeth. It's like checking if there are any problems or holes (cavities) on the top part of the teeth.

Bitewing Dental X-rays

Right Bitewing

Left Bitewing

Full Mouth Series: This is like taking a lot of pictures of all your teeth. It's a bit like

making a map of your teeth and bones inside your mouth. Dentists use this set of pictures to know how your teeth are doing and if there are any hidden problems.

Additional Radiographs Not Taken As Regularly or By Every Dental Office

Panoramic Radiograph (Panorex): Imagine taking a big picture of your whole mouth, like a wide landscape photo. This is what a panoramic radiograph does. It shows your teeth, jaws, and even your jaw joints in one single image. It's like a big overview of your mouth.

Cephalometric Radiograph (Ceph): Think of this as a side-view picture of your head. Dentists use this type of x-ray to look at the relationship between your teeth, jaws, and face. It's helpful when they want to plan things like braces or other treatments that affect how your whole face looks.

Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT): This sounds complex, but it's like a 3D scanner for your mouth. Imagine making a 3D model of your teeth and bones. CBCT does that, helping dentists see things in three dimensions. It's used for detailed views, like planning dental implants or complex surgeries.

Occlusal Radiograph: This is like a close-up view of the roof or floor of your mouth. It helps dentists see things like extra teeth or problems with how your top and bottom teeth come together.

Extraoral Radiographs: These are pictures taken from outside your mouth. They show the whole skull and jaw. Dentists might use these to see how your teeth and jaws work together when you bite or chew.