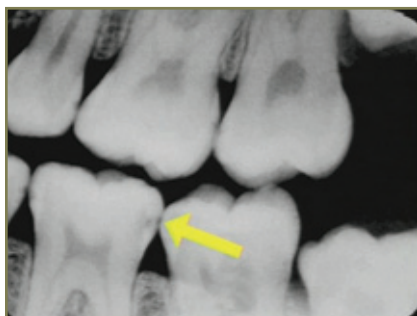


# Bitewing x-rays

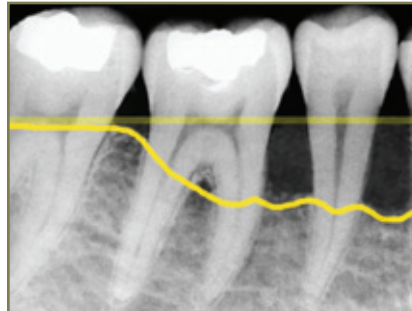
## Why do I need bitewing x-rays?

Bitewing x-rays are the most common x-rays taken in dentistry. We use them to find a variety of conditions, including:

- Cavities between the teeth
- Tartar on the tooth roots
- Worn-out or broken fillings or crowns
- Receding bone levels resulting from periodontal disease



*A hidden cavity*



*Receding bone levels*



*Protective apron*

## What happens during the procedure?

First we cover you with a lead apron to protect the rest of your body while we take x-rays of your mouth. Then we place a small packet of x-ray film inside your mouth. When you bite on the tab on the side of the packet, the film is properly lined up to get a picture of your upper and lower teeth at the same time.

## Are bitewing x-rays safe?

Dental x-rays use high-speed film, so the amount of radiation exposure is very low.

Though machines vary, bitewing x-rays add only as much radiation as you'd get in four days from natural sources such as sunlight, minerals in the soil, home appliances, and through the atmosphere from space.

Even if you've recently had x-rays taken of other parts of your body, bitewing x-rays don't add to the total amount of radiation in your system because x-ray radiation does not stay in the body.

Bitewing x-rays are a necessary part of regular dental checkups. They give us vital information that we can't get from any other source.