

Health

TOP STORY



New Technology Takes Pictures Of Bones Without X-Rays

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Dental X-rays are used to take pictures of the teeth, bones, and other surrounding soft tissues. But a major shortcoming is that it uses ionizing radiation to capture the images.

Now, there's a way to take pictures of teeth without radiation. Manhattan dentist Dr. Ramin Tabib is using a new technology called DIFOTI, or Digital Imaging Fiber Optic Trans Illumination, which uses light instead of X-rays.

"Right now, we're taking the image of the tooth and we can see it on the computer screen," Tabib said.

The device is similar to a handheld camera with a disposable mouthpiece. The powerful light travels through the layers of enamel and shows up on the screen. Unlike X-rays, Tabib said DIFOTI picks up decay at its earliest stages.

"It shows decay unbelievably," he said. "You are never able to see this with an X-ray."

The other good thing about DIFOTI, he said, is that it's safe for pregnant women while X-rays are not.

But DIFOTI has a drawback as well – it cannot take images below the gum level.

"You can only view what's above the gum level, so standard X-rays are still reliable for detecting gum disease or problems with the roots of the tooth."

There's also no need to file X-rays on charts anymore, since DIFOTI images are stored right in the computer.

For more information on the technology, contact Dr. Tabib at 8 East 84th St., New York, NY 10028 or call (212)452-3344.

You can also log onto www.nyctsmiledesign.com

--Cheryl Wills