Panoramic images are commonly acquired in dental practice, and it is important for dentists to understand the appropriateness of this imaging tool in diagnosis. The purpose of this lecture is to remind (or “re-prime”) dentists’ knowledge about panoramic imaging: how to systematically review the panoramic image, technical errors, and variations in normal anatomy that may simulate the appearance of disease; limitations of panoramic images in diagnosis; and when (and when not) to order imaging. As with any test that has an associated risk, the careful and judicious use of panoramic imaging in dental patients should result in a net benefit to their immediate management.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

1. Describe how patient positioning can adversely affect the appearance of panoramic images
2. Understand the role (and limitations) of panoramic imaging in diagnosis
3. Develop a systematic strategy for reviewing the panoramic image
4. Implement evidence-based criteria for ordering panoramic in general dental practice

**CLINICIAN**

**ERNEST LAM, BSC, DMD, MSC, CERT. OMR, PHD, DIP ABOMR, FRCD(C),**

Dr. Ernest Lam’s areas of research and clinical interests are in oral and maxillofacial radiology and oral and maxillofacial radiology education research. He serves as a Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Director of the Graduate Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto.

**Research & Clinical Specialties:**
- oral and maxillofacial radiology
- education research

**Distinctions:**
- Fellowship Award, the Medical Research Council of Canada (1995-1998)
- Clinical Investigator Award, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (2001-2005)
- W.W. Wood Teaching Award, Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry, 2003
- The Dr. Lloyd and Mrs. Kay Chapman Chair in Clinical Sciences (2013 to present)
- Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

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