By [josianne jonas](http://engl301.arts.ubc.ca/author/josianne-jonas/%22%20%5Co%20%22Posts%20by%20josianne%20jonas) on June 7, 2017

To: Rebecca Coleman
From: Josy Jonas
Date: June 7, 2017
Subject: Proposal for implementing digital radiography at Dr. J.M. Jameson Dentistry Inc.

 **Introduction:** Dental radiography is an essential diagnostic tool in the assessment and diagnosis of our patient’s oral health. Initial radiographs can help the oral health care professional in determining the current oral health status of the patient, and identify any changes that can occur over time. Radiographs are used to assess decay, the presence, and extent of bone loss attributed to periodontal disease. More serious conditions can be identified with radiographs, such as cysts, abscesses, dental abnormalities, and tumors.

**Statement of the problem:**  Our practice currently uses traditional techniques for radiographic imaging. Radiography has had significant new advances with the switch from traditional radiography to digital radiography techniques. Digital radiography has the added benefits of reduced exposure to radiation, reduced chemical waste from solutions, and proven to be a better diagnostic tool.

Images produced from digital radiography have the advantage of being able to enlarge images, create darker and lighter contrasts, and enhance colours.

**Proposed solution:** A possible solution would be to present the dentist and practice owner with a report on the feasibility of implementing digital radiography into the practice. As well as providing a comparative analysis of the benefits of digital radiography in comparison to traditional radiography.

**Scope:**To assess the feasibility of implementing digital radiography, I plan on exploring the following questions;

* What environmental impact does traditional radiography have in comparison to digital radiography?
* What are the initial costs of digital radiography?
* What are the benefits/implications of digital radiography to our patients?
* What are the practice benefits/implications of digital radiography?

**Methods:**My data sources will include contacting digital radiography sales representatives. Creating a survey and asking my graduating class to partake in our private Facebook group. I will supplement my sources with articles in peer-reviewed journals. I will also contact local dental practices for interviews on the usage of digital radiography in their practice settings.

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**Qualifications:**I have over fifteen years of experience working in dentistry. I began my career in dentistry as a dental assistant, then furthered my education and became a dental hygienist. I have had the opportunity to work in various practice settings, and gained hands-on experience using digital radiography. Through furthering my education in becoming a dental hygienist, I have a strong theoretical understanding of the principles of radiography. Furthermore, as a registered dental hygienist and member of the College of Dental Hygienists of B.C. I have met the required qualifications of operating radiographic equipment.

**Conclusion:** Digital radiography costs are initially high, and often cited as a reason not to implement the change. However, the diagnostic proficiency of digital radiography is well established, as well as environmental benefits, and reduced exposure of radiation to our patients. An analysis of the benefits and feasibility of implementing the switch is worthy of exploring, and with your approval, I will start the process promptly.

Kind regards,

Josy Jonas