



Posted On: **November 23, 2010** by [Patrick A. Malone](#)

A simple question to ask your dentist about X-ray safety

X-rays in the dental chair carry a small but cumulative risk of causing cancer, and there are simple ways to reduce the risk.

One is to ask the dentist if he or she is using "fast" X-ray film, which allows a smaller X-ray exposure to get the same quality image.

The majority of dental offices still use the slow "D-speed" film, which the American Dental Association says should not be used. Better is to use E-speed or F-Speed, which can cut X-ray exposure by 60 percent.

Patrick A. Malone
Patrick Malone & Associates, P.C.
1331 H Street N.W.
Suite 902
Washington, DC 20005

pmalone@patrickmalonelaw.com
www.patrickmalonelaw.com
202-742-1500
202-742-1515 (fax)

Even better than film is digital imaging detectors which further cut radiation dose.

This and other tips are found in a New York Times article on high-dose radiation risks in dentistry, which are even greater with a new technology called cone-beam CT scanning, which creates 3-D images of the entire teeth and facial bones.

More questions to ask your dentist about radiation can be found in [this list](#) prepared by the Times reporters.

Read the whole [report](#) in the Times here.

People interested in learning more about our firm's legal services, including [medical malpractice in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia](#), may ask questions or send us information about a particular case by phone or email. There is no charge for contacting us regarding your inquiry. A [malpractice attorney](#) will respond within 24 hours.

All contents copyrighted 2010 [Patrick Malone & Associates](#) except where copyright held by others. Reproduction in any form prohibited except where expressly granted.

Patrick A. Malone
Patrick Malone & Associates, P.C.
1331 H Street N.W.
Suite 902
Washington, DC 20005

pmalone@patrickmalonelaw.com
www.patrickmalonelaw.com
202-742-1500
202-742-1515 (fax)