

# Radiograph Troubleshooting



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**Ready or Not**  
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## **PARTIALLY EXPOSED RADIOGRAPHS**

Possible causes:

- X-ray tubehead positioned incorrectly with respect to the imaging media
- Low developer fluid level, with resulting partial film development
- Two or more films placed against each other during development

## **CLOUDED RADIOGRAPHS**

Possible causes:

- Outdated film (check expiry date)
- Film accidentally exposed to X-ray
- Film accidentally exposed to other natural or artificial light sources
- Improper development technique

## **RADIOGRAPHS SHOWING A BLACK LINE**

This line appears when the film is excessively folded

## **RADIOGRAPHS SHOWING SIGNS OF ELECTROSTATIC ELECTRICITY**

When a film is compressed too much and the air is dry, static electricity may occur, which displays black marks

## **RADIOGRAPHS WITH CHEMICAL SPOTS**

Developer or fixer fluid spattered on the film before development and fixing procedures produces spots on the radiograph; such spots are:

- Dark, when caused by developer
- Light, when caused by fixer fluid

## **RADIOGRAPHS WITH EMULSION COMING OFF**

If the film is kept in a hot water bath too long (e.g. throughout the whole night), or in the developer solution too long, the emulsion may become softer and partially come off the film base. After development, the film will show scratches

## **TYPICAL DEFECTS CAUSED BY INCORRECT POSITIONING**

- Radiographs with elongated or shortened image:  
The main beam is not perpendicular to the bisecting angle formed by the tooth longitudinal axis and the film
- Radiographs with stretched out tip of tooth  
Probably caused by excessive film folding or bending inside the patient's mouth