## Study Finds Dental X-rays Increase Risk of Brain Tumors

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A new study from Yale University School of Medicine and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston has found that frequent dental x-rays can increase the risk for meningioma brain tumors, according to a <u>news report</u>.

The study found that people who reported receiving annual dental x-rays had a 40 to 90 percent greater risk of meningioma, a largely benign brain tumor that can grow quickly and cause a wide range of potentially serious symptoms, including hearing and vision loss, memory loss, seizures and frequent headaches. The leading known environmental risk factor for developing these tumors is exposure to ionizing radiation, which is found in x-rays.

Researchers studied the dental histories of 1,400 meningioma patients between the ages of 20 and 79, comparing the self-reported dental history data to adults with similar characteristics who did not have tumors. The meningioma patients were twice as likely as adults with no brain tumors to have had dental x-rays during their lives.

The study recommended that healthy adults should have dental x-rays only as needed – at most every two or three years instead of annually, which is the frequency recommended by the American Dental Association.

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