Knowledge, attitude and practices of radiology in dental practice among UAE dentists.

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Dental Radiology is a vital diagnostic tool which is essential in a dental practice. Recent studies have shown that 25% of radiological examinations occur in dental clinics in the European Union. These radiological examinations are most commonly performed on children and young adults, which makes it even more fundamental for dental practitioners to be informed about its harmful effects. The purpose of this study is to assess dentists' knowledge regarding radiological practices.

This study was conducted to enquire about perceptions in radiology and its harmful effects amongst the dental community practicing in the UAE. 220 questionnaires were distributed to general practitioners and specialists working in dental clinics in UAE. Surveys contained questions regarding basic concepts in radiology, radiation protection devices, and some of the questions that were asked for patients exposed to radiation and staff handling x-rays. Result analysis showed that 89% of dentists find radiographs most useful for initial diagnosis. The results further showed that 75% of dental clinics use intraoral periapical radiographs, followed by panoramic radiographs (44%) and bitewings (40%). This is followed by the conventional method used in 32.8% of dental clinics. There were 29.1% of the dental clinics which made use of both conventional and digital radiography. 78.8% of respondents are aware of radiographic protection devices. 63.2% of dental clinics provide patients with a lead apron for radiation protection.

Biography
Alexander Luke has completed his MDS from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, India in Maxillofacial Radiology in 2001. He is presently faculty in the College of Dentistry, Ajman University, UAE. He has published more than 10 papers in reputed journals.

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