

The case for CBCT.

The patient is a 38 year old woman presenting for TMJ and sleep disorder breathing evaluation and treatment.

Work history is a series of high stress executive positions, long hours and demanding international travel schedule.

A significant health issue is a multi year history of positive tests for inflammation plus debilitating recurring hives/urticaria from undiagnosed sources. Sedimentation rate in January 2021 was 40 (The **normal range** 0 to 20 mm/hr for women under age 50). A **high sed rate** is a sign you have a disease that causes inflammation in your body. High-sensitivity CRP (hs-CRP or high sensitivity C reactive protein) was 5.0 in January (normal is less than 3.0). Hs-CRP is thought by some experts to be a useful test for determining risk of CVD, heart attacks and strokes.

Dental history: Generally healthy with few restorations except endodontically treated #2 20 years ago with recent crown on #2.

2D x-ray 11/2020



Xray post op after new crown 11/2020
Appears to be unremarkable

As part of the diagnostic work up at **THRIVE** Sleep and Breathing Stroudsburg office a 3-dimensional CBCT scan was taken to evaluate the head, neck, airway and oral health.

CBCT 4/2021



The CBCT image revealed a significant PA infection undetected with years of routine 2D radiographs.

The RCT was successfully retreated accessed by drilling through the new crown.

Subsequent medical follow up testing revealed sed rate dropped from 40 to 4 and hs-CRP dropped from 5.0 to 3.3. The episodes of hives have significantly reduced in frequency and severity. Her endocrinologist felt the improvement was attributed to the discovery and successful treatment of what may have been a decades long periapical infection associated with tooth #2.

This is a great case to illustrate the value occasional CBCT as a screening tool for seemingly healthy patients. She is a conscientious patient with few dental needs and access to the best dental care. The CBCT identified a serious infection possibly driving or contributing to a systemic medical condition. I can state this with complete certainty because this patient is my daughter.

THRIVE offers CBCT as a referral service for you and your patients. We'll take CBCTs for you when you want or need one.

Best regards,
Randy Nolf, DDS