

Describing a Radiographic Lesion

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- Kind of x-ray view and site**
- Location**
 - Anatomic position (epicenter).
 - Localized or generalized: One or both jaws, other bones of the skull, rest of skeleton.
 - Unilateral or bilateral:
 - Tooth Associated (periapical, pericoronal, or interradicular).
 - In tooth bearing area or non tooth bearing area.
 - Cross the midline, 3rd molar region, mandibular angle.
 - Single or multiple.
 - Compare to same area on the other side if it is sound and not affected by the lesion.
- Periphery & Shape**
 - **Well defined :**
 - Punched out.
 - Corticated
 - Corticated and/or surrounded by a radiolucent area or line.
 - Corticated hyperostotic line (indicating low constant pressure)
 - Sclerotic radiopaque area of dense sclerotic reactive bone
 - Soft tissue capsule.
 - **Ill defined:**
 - Blending.
 - Invasive.
 - **Shape:**
 - Unilocular or Multilocular (honey comb, soap bubble, or tennis racket appearance)
 - Circular.
 - Scalloped.
 - Irregular.
- Internal Structure (Radio-density):** Relative to surrounding background.
 - Radiolucent.
 - Radiopaque.
 - Mixed density (cotton wool appearance, calcified flecks...etc)
- Effect on surrounding structures**
 - Impaction and/or displacement of teeth, resorption, thinning or destruction of cortical bony boundaries.
 - Teeth, Lamina dura, PDL space, inferior alveolar canal and mental foramen.
 - Maxillary sinus.
 - Surrounding bone density and trabecular pattern.
 - Outer cortical bone and periosteal reactions.