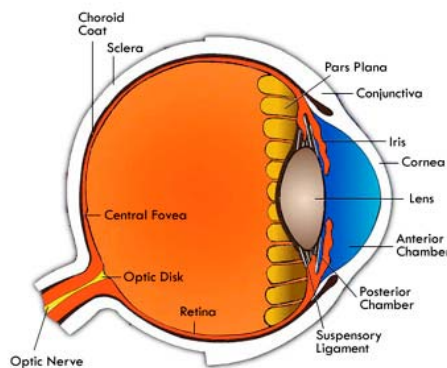


OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY

A Patient's Guide

This test is similar to B-scan biometry except that it uses light rather than sound waves to obtain imaging of the internal eye structures. This procedure creates a much more detailed picture and is useful in the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases such as holes, edema degeneration, inflammatory conditions and others. It may also be used to measure the nerve fibres in glaucoma and other diseases of the optic nerves.

Drops are first put into the eye(s) to open the pupil, which is the dark opening in the centre of the eye. Once the pupil is dilated, you then look into the machine where an infra-red light is shone directly into the eye. Using this light, a computer analyzes the information to create detailed, cross-sectional images of the retina.



No special preparation is required. Because of the eye drops used to open the pupil, your vision will be blurred in the eye(s) tested for up to several hours. Until your vision is clear, **DO NOT** drive, use machines or do anything else that could be dangerous **if you are not able to see well**. Your eyes will also be more sensitive to light until the medication wears off; therefore, you should wear sunglasses that block ultraviolet light to protect your eyes from sunlight (even on cloudy days) and other bright lights.

As with any procedure or test, it is important to report any known allergies, chronic conditions and/or medications that you are taking as these may influence your testing and diagnosis.



Estimated time spent at the hospital for the procedure:
45 minutes (time includes filling out forms).