



Eye Surgery Associates

OPHTHALMIC SURGEONS

Patient Information

VISUAL FIELD TESTING (HVF)

What is a Visual Field test?

A visual field test is performed to investigate the sensitivity of the eye and the extent of your peripheral vision. When you read the letters on a vision chart, this tests your central vision. It provides little information about your peripheral or “side” vision. A visual field test offers a detailed map of your central and peripheral vision.

How is a Visual Field test performed?

A Visual Field test is performed on the Humphrey Visual Field machine. The test takes on average 5-10 minutes per eye. It is completely painless but it does require some concentration. You are asked to concentrate on a small light directly in front of you for the duration of the test. You can blink but should not look around. When you become aware of small lights in your peripheral vision, you will be asked to press a buzzer. Your Orthoptist will explain in further detail how to do the test.

Why is peripheral vision important?

Peripheral vision is important for general navigation and balance. It allows you to judge the location of objects in your surroundings. If your peripheral vision is reduced you may have less awareness of objects in your environment and possibly bump into objects (eg: door frames/tables etc). Peripheral vision is essential for tasks such as driving and playing sports.

What causes Visual Field loss?

The main causes of visual field loss are diseases of the eye such as Glaucoma. Glaucoma is a progressive disease which causes nerve fibre loss from optic nerve of the eye. Other causes of visual field loss may include retinal diseases, diabetes, stroke and eye injuries.

Why is it important to have your Visual Field tested?

It is very important to have your peripheral vision checked because it is possible to lose a large portion of your visual field without noticing any symptoms. Unfortunately, visual field loss is often permanent and irreversible.

Your doctor will monitor your peripheral vision by first performing a baseline visual field test, and then repeating the test approximately every 6 to 12 months. This is an effective way to detect if there are any changes or deterioration in your visual field. Having all your testing done on our system allows us to utilise the machines’ analysing capabilities to help detect subtle change

What is the cost of visual field testing?

Please ask your receptionist for a financial estimate.

*If you have any further questions regarding this test please do not hesitate to ask your
Orthoptist or Ophthalmologist involved in your care.*