



Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

What is Optical Coherence Tomography?

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is a non-invasive diagnostic test used to capture images of the distinctive layers of the Retina and Optic Nerve (at the back of the eye). The OCT can also scan the Anterior Segment (the front of the eye) including the Cornea, Iris and Anterior Chamber Angle. These images allow your Ophthalmologist to diagnose and monitor a wide range of eye conditions including Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Glaucoma, Diabetic Eye Disease, Corneal Disease and Uveitis.

How is an OCT performed?

An OCT uses light waves to take cross-sectional images of specific areas of your eye. It is completely painless and reasonably quick (approx. 3-5 mins), but does require some concentration. You will be asked to focus on a target inside the machine throughout the test. The machine analyses the scans almost immediately and the images will be available for you to view with your Doctor.

Why is it important to have OCTs?

The OCT magnifies specific areas of your eye and provides your Ophthalmologist with a high-definition scan. For example, the Retina is approximately 300 microns thick (0.3 millimetres) so at times subtle pathology can be difficult to examine and diagnose. The sophisticated OCT technology can detect the earliest signs of eye disease and plays a key role in treatment decisions. The software on our OCTs allows us to compare testing between visits in order to highlight any changes.

What is the cost of an OCT?

There is an additional cost for this test. Please ask the receptionist for a financial estimate.

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