

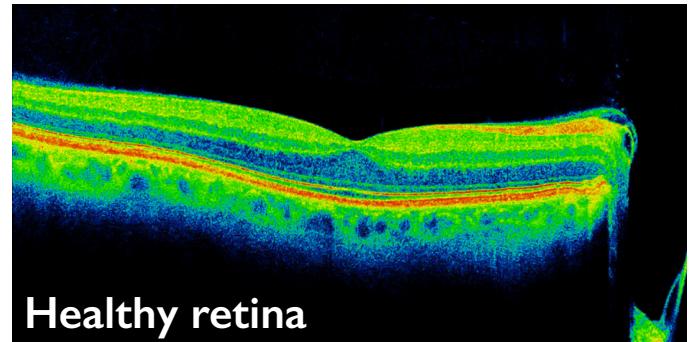


Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Patient Information booklet

The following booklet has been created to give you an understanding of what Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is, what it is used for and the benefits to your ongoing treatment. If you still require more information on the scan you are about to have please feel free to speak with a doctor, nurse or the photographer today.

What is an OCT?

An OCT is a scan of the back of your eye. The scan is painless and the results help your doctor diagnose or monitor your condition.



Healthy retina

How does it work?

The OCT scanner uses waves of light to image the retina at the back of the eye. The scan shows the various layers of the retina and will show the doctor any pathology that may be causing problems to your vision. The OCT does not use radiation, it is not an x-ray and is perfectly safe for children as well as pregnant women.

Where is the test carried out?

The OCT scan is performed in the Photographic Department located in the basement of the hospital next to the Outpatients Department.

What happens first?

Prior to having your scan the doctor / nurse will examine you on the slit lamp.

What happens first (cont.)

Before the doctor / nurse sends you for the scan you will have dilating drops administered to both eyes. The dilating drops will sting briefly and make your pupils large. It can take anything for 15 - 30 mins for the drops to take affect.

The drops will keep your eyes dilated for at least 6 - 8 hours. While your eyes are dilated you are advised **not to drive** as your eyes will be sensitive to light.

You may also wish to bring a pair of sunglasses to reduce your discomfort.

What happens during the scan?

When your pupils have fully dilated the photographer will call you into the OCT room. You will be asked to identify yourself and then instructed to place your chin onto the rest.

The photographer will instruct you during the scan. It is important you listen to these instructions so the photographer can achieve the best scans for your doctor.

You are asked to try and minimise blinking during the scan (s).

Where do my results go?

After the scan is complete you will take your chart back to the doctor and he / she will review your scans.

You will get your results on the day of your scan and you may be given a follow up appointment.

Larger Print

If you require a larger print size please ask a member of staff.

Phone: 01 - 6343613

www.rveeh.ie/content/photographic

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