

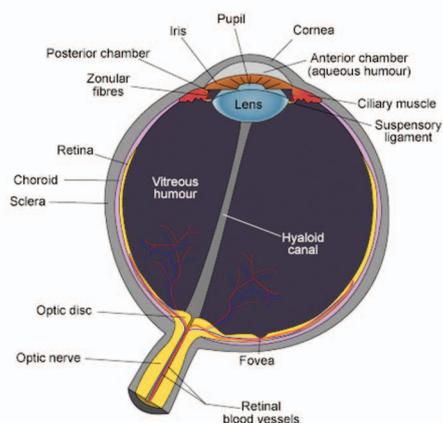
Sight Matters

FAQ Sheets

Ocular Coherence Tomography

The Purpose of OCT

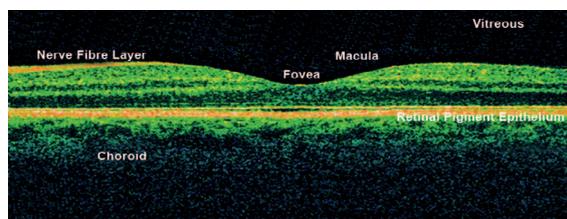
Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT) is a process used to capture images of the sensitive layers below the surface of the retina. Because these are deeper layers, they cannot normally be seen by other standard clinical procedures.



The OCT instrument uses a projected near-infra-red light and a powerful computer to provide three-dimensional images of the retina at the back of the eye. This then makes it possible to examine the nerves and layers in the retina; and to see any disease that might be present. For example:

- Macular Degeneration
- Glaucoma
- Retinal Cancer
- Cysts & Retinal Bleeding
- Macular Swelling
- Traction Syndromes

Ocular Coherence Tomography works much like an ultrasound, except that it uses light rather than sound and thereby achieves a resolution that is ten times better.

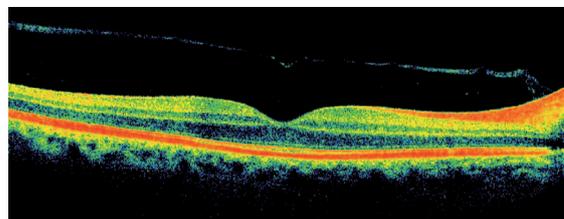


What to Expect

OCT scans are completely painless and non-invasive. The patient is simply asked to sit in front of the scanner and place their chin on a rest. The optometrist or ophthalmologist then lines up the scanner with the patient's eye and the scan takes only a few seconds. Through all of this procedure the scanner is not big or noisy.

The OCT Results

The scan obtained with OCT shows a cross-sectional and three-dimensional image of the retinal tissue in living human eyes. OCT images are real-time and in micron scale resolution.



The patient is typically shown these images and the clinician is then able to explain what they mean. If something unexpected is detected a course of action and treatment can be recommended.

It is also important that the OCT scans are kept on file as a baseline for future comparisons.