

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital
Imaging and Angiography Ophthalmology

Information for Patients

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

This booklet has been designed to help you understand what Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is and what will happen to you when you attend for your OCT scan appointment.

What is OCT?

OCT is a non-invasive medical imaging technique, using light waves, to produce images of the back of your eye, this helps your doctors to diagnose and manage your condition. With OCT, your doctor can see each of the retina's distinctive layers to map and measure their thickness. These measurements help with diagnosis.

Where is the test carried out?

The test is carried out in Clinic E, which is located on the ground floor of Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. On arrival, you should report to the reception desk.

What happens next?

When you arrive at the clinic you will have eye drops put in your eye(s) to make your pupils larger. This can take up to 30 minutes to work. The drops will cause your vision to become blurred. This lasts for 4-6 hours. It is important that you do not drive to your appointment or operate machinery during this time. The drops can also make your eyes sensitive to bright light; you might wish to bring a pair of sunglasses with you to protect your eyes.

What happens during OCT?

Once your pupils have dilated, an imaging specialist will take you into the OCT room. You will be seated in front of the OCT machine, you will then be required to place your head onto a support and to keep very still whilst the back of your eye is scanned. This is totally painless and takes around 10-15 minutes.

What happens next?

Your doctor will study the results of your scan carefully before making a decision regarding any possible treatment options. The results may be discussed with you on the day or you could be given a follow up appointment.

All of the above will be explained to you in more detail on the day of your appointment. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions whilst you are here.