

What to Expect on Your First Visit

Our medical evaluation will begin with an ophthalmic technician talking with you to secure a more detailed medical and ocular history. Drops will then be placed in your eyes to dilate your pupils and check your eye pressure. After your pupils are dilated, our technicians will take you for pre-ordered diagnostic testing. Once your pupils have dilated and your testing has been completed, one of our doctors will meet with you to examine your eyes. To evaluate the retina, vitreous and macula, the doctor will use highly sophisticated and specially-designed medical instruments. Depending on your medical condition, other special tests may be performed.

OCT – an OCT is a non-invasive, quick photograph that uses light rays to measure the thickness of the retina. OCT provides a detailed, high magnified, cross-section view of the retina on a microscopic level. It can often reveal tiny abnormal areas not readily apparent during an exam. An OCT photograph is not an x-ray and is not harmful to your eyes.

Fundus photos - A special camera is used to take photographs of the back of your eye (retina). This is often performed to document specific findings and for future comparison. Your doctor can show you your photographs and determine if there has been a change when compared with previous photographs

FA/ICG -Fluorescein angiography (FA) involves the injection of a small amount of vegetable-based dye through a patient's peripheral vein, usually the arm or hand. The dye is not the same contrast dye used for cat scans (CT), and thus, it is generally safe even for patients with abnormal kidney function. After the dye is injected, an ophthalmic photographer will take a series of time-dependent photographs as the dye circulates through the blood vessels in your retina. The dye lights up areas of abnormal and leaky blood vessels. Not only is this useful in determining the extent and progression of a disease, but it also helps when targeting specific treatment areas, comparing disease progression, and efficacy of treatment. Indocyanine green (ICG) angiography is very similar to FA except a different dye is injected. Your doctor may recommend one or both of these photographic evaluations to help make an accurate diagnosis.

Indirect ophthalmoscopy or extended ophthalmoscopy is for the examination and documentation of a new event or diagnosis. Extended ophthalmoscopy, (subsequent) is used when a change in a chronic condition or pathology is determined and drawn.

Following your exam and diagnostic testing, the doctor will make a determination of your diagnosis and need for treatment.