

# Having an OCT scan of your eye

(optical coherence tomography)

Department of Ophthalmology

Information for Patients

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## What is an OCT scan?

An OCT scan uses light waves to produce images of your eye. This helps your doctors and health professionals to diagnose and manage your condition.

OCT imaging systems can look at the back of your eye (retina) and the front surface of the eye (cornea). They help us to diagnose and manage eye conditions.

OCT instruments use very advanced technology to find abnormalities at a very early stage. You will find OCT's in most hospital eye departments and the results are usually very detailed.

## Why should I have an OCT scan?

Having an OCT scan as well as your normal eye test will let us have the most detailed information about your overall eye health. Early detection means you can have treatment quicker. This should mean better outcomes for the health of your eye.

## What happens to my images?

Your images will be stored on file. We may often repeat your OCT scan at each clinic visit, so we can compare your images to see if anything has changed.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## What happens during my scan?

You will need to sit in one position and look at a fixation target. The scan will not touch your eye or blow air at your eye. An OCT scan will not affect a pacemaker.

## How long does it take?

The OCT scan is a very quick process. It should take no longer than a few minutes. Some clinic appointments are now booked as a virtual appointment. This means you will still need to attend your clinic appointment for a vision test and OCT scan, but you will not need to see a clinician on the day. The clinician will review your OCT scan and will be in contact with you about your results.

## Contact details

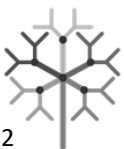
If you have any questions or worries, either before or after the test, please do not hesitate to ask.

- Clinic enquiry line - 0116 258 6763 (please note this number is not used for booking or cancellation enquiries).  
Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل  
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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)



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