

Retina Consultation – What to Expect
Greenwich Ophthalmology Associates
www.greenwicheyecare.com

For your upcoming retina consultation, this handout will help you know what to expect during the visit.

Please allow enough time in your schedule for this visit. **We recommend allowing approximately 2 hours for this consultation.** We prefer to allow enough time to do a high-quality, complete examination and have the opportunity to answer all of your questions. Please bring a book or something to do in case you have “down time” in the waiting room. We also have free Wi-Fi at the office.

Dilated Examination

During your visit, eye drops will be used to dilate, or enlarge, your pupils. Dilating the pupils is necessary for a thorough examination of the back of the eye. The eye drops last approximately 3-4 hours and make your eyes sensitive to bright lights. If you did not bring your own sunglasses for use after your visit, we will provide a pair. The dilation drops may make it difficult to read temporarily. **Since the eye drops may affect your vision, we recommend that you arrange for a friend or family member to drive you home.**

Other Important Testing

To diagnose retinal problems, it is common to use high-tech cameras to take pictures of the back of the eye. Here are a few cameras which you may encounter during your visit:

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – this non-invasive camera will take high-definition, digital pictures of the retina. It uses harmless light rays to image the retina. It is often used along with the dilated eye examination to help diagnose subtle problems. This is a breakthrough technology which gives a “high definition” picture of the retina.

Fluorescein Angiography - In this test, a special dye is injected into your arm. Pictures are taken as the dye passes through the blood vessels in your retina. This important test is extremely helpful to identify abnormalities in the layers of the retina. It is especially important in diseases which may affect blood flow to the eye. The dye used is non-toxic and is typically well-tolerated.

This handout was created by Jerry W. Tsong, MD. After graduating from MIT and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Tsong completed residency at the George Washington University Medical Center and fellowship at Doheny Eye Institute. Dr. Tsong is the Medical Retina Specialist at Greenwich Ophthalmology Associates. For more information about him, please visit www.greenwicheyecare.com.