

Patient information

Visual field testing

Introduction

Your consultant has requested you have a visual field examination. This leaflet should answer any questions you may have.

What is visual field testing

A visual field test measures how much peripheral 'side' vision you have. It is painless, straightforward and does not involve any eye drops.

What do I need to bring to the clinic for this test?

Please bring all the glasses you wear for near and distance.

Appointments

If possible, we will carry out the test on the same day as your eye clinic appointment. If you are given two appointments, it is important to attend both so that the doctor has all the results when you see them.

If you have a joint appointment cancelled it is important to contact the eye clinic, on 01284 713815, to check whether the visual field test appointment has also been cancelled. It is sometimes necessary to cancel the doctor's appointment but the visual field test appointment may still go ahead.

Why do I need this test?

The testing of visual fields is carried out as part of the investigation into your eye complaint. It can give your doctor valuable information about your eye condition.

Visual field testing is carried out on most patients with suspected glaucoma.

The test can help monitor your treatment by plotting any change in the visual field which may occur between visits.

How is the test carried out?

- You will be seated comfortably at a machine in a room with reduced lighting.
- Each eye is tested in turn
- You will be asked to watch a central light
- The machine will show you a series of flashes, one at a time, which will vary in brightness.
- You will be asked to press a button each time you see the flash of light.
- You must not look for the lights.

How can I ensure the test is accurate?

The three most important things are:

- To watch the central light at all times

- To keep the eye still
- To blink normally

How long does the test take?

Visual field testing can take between 15-20 minutes.

What happens to the results?

The doctor will review the results at your next clinic appointment.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>

