

Electro-oculogram (EOG)

What is an EOG examination?

This is a test of the responsiveness of the retina which is part of the eye. It is used to determine how healthy the retina is. The test takes upto 60 minutes to complete and your results will be sent to the referring GP/clinician and are usually available within ten days.

How is the test performed?

The test is painless. The test is performed by attaching leads to the skin at each side of each eye. You will be asked to look into a globe and follow a red light from side to side. The test is performed in the dark and the light. The leads record the responses of the eyes to the movements of the light.

This test is usually performed along with an electro-retinogram (ERG). If you have been booked for an ERG a separate explanation leaflet is available.

At the start of the test you MAY be given some eye drops (Tropicamide 0.5% and Proxymetacaine 0.5%) to anaesthetise and dilate your pupils (the black part of your eye).

The eye drops will sting for a few moments but then will settle down. The effect of the eye drops can last for between 4-6 hours. This means that when you leave the department after the test, your pupils will still be dilated. You may find it uncomfortable in daylight/bright light and your eyesight may be blurry. You must not drive following the administration of eye drops until your eyes have returned to normal, which can take up to 6 hours. If you attend in a vehicle please ensure there is someone you can contact who is able to drive you home.

If you think you may be pregnant, please let the member of staff who is doing your test know. Eye drops will not be used if you are pregnant, but the test can still be done.

How do I prepare for the test?

If you are taking any medication please continue to take it and bring a list of your medication with you. You may continue to eat meals as normal.