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INFORMATION REGARDING OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY (OCT)

Your physician has requested that you have Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). This diagnostic test is used to reveal optic nerve elevation and loss of the retinal fiber layer and is helpful in the diagnosis and follow up of patients with optic neuritis, multiple sclerosis and psuedotumor cerebri.

WHAT IS OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY? Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) produces high resolution, high speed, non-invasive, cross-sectional images of body tissue. The technology is best compared to ultrasound, except that it employs light rather than sound and thereby achieves clearer, sharper resolution. Non-invasive OCT examinations produce real-time cross-sectional images of retinal tissue, in neuro-ophthalmic applications, and are usually accomplished in less than 20 minutes.

Obtaining an OCT image is quick and painless for the patient. All of the data and images are stored on the computer and a printed copy is provided to the physician.

FOR THE TECHNICALLY MINDED: The OCT contains an interferometer that resolves retinal structures by measuring the echo delay time of light that is reflected and backscattered from different microstructural features in the retina.

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST: It is suggested that you bring dark glasses with you. If you wear contacts, please bring your contact case. Your eyes may need to be dilated so if you can't drive with dilation, bring a driver.