

# OBSERVATORY

THE OPTICIANS

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## Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

*The Optical Coherence Tomographer (OCT) allows us to take 3-dimensional scans of the back and front of your eyes, rather like an MRI scanner does for the rest of the body. This is one of the most advanced diagnostic machines available and usually seen only in eye hospitals such as Moorfields.*

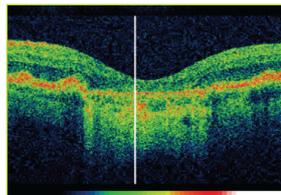
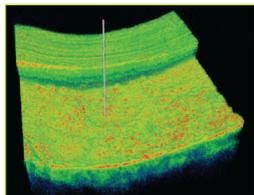
### Advanced Eyecare in Practice

We are committed to providing you with the highest standard of eyecare available and Observatory is one of the first opticians in the UK to invest in this medical technology.

The procedure is comfortable and the image is captured in seconds using optical scanning and flash photography – nothing touches your eyes.

The images show exceptional detail and year on year comparisons are made automatically which show changes that are too small to be seen by the eye. The results, which are similar to a contour map, are compared to a world-wide nominal database which allows for gender, age and race, and can give unprecedented accuracy in predictive diagnostics.

**The tomographer allows you to be aware of changes in your eyes before any symptoms appear, giving you advanced warning and therefore allowing early intervention.**



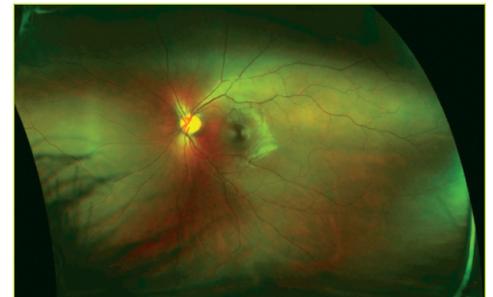
### What are the Benefits?

- A permanent and extremely accurate record can be kept of the condition of your eyes.
- Detection of changes too small to be seen even using Retinal Photography can be picked up and compared year on year against previous 3D scans and a world-wide nominal database of "normal" eyes. This is the equivalent of hundreds of years of experience for eye surgeons.
- Allows you to see what we see and to understand any changes taking place.
- Allows precise diagnostic levels of detail ensuring timely, accurate referral to a consultant surgeon should that be necessary.

### Who should have OCT?

Everyone who wants the best available eye care but particularly:

- All those over 40.
- Family history of eye problems.
- Diabetics even if already in a screening service.
- General health problems that may affect the eyes.
- Anyone who has an abnormality detected using any other method.



### How is this an Improvement over Retinal Photography?

Retinal photography relies on the visible surface areas of the back of the eye. This can be highly magnified and filtered to enhance what we see. However, many changes that can happen start below the surface.

The OCT takes a 3D scan of the eye so we can look through the surface at the cross section of layers below, which we have never been able to see before now, and magnify them to ensure that they are as they should be. A retinal photograph is also taken at the same time which is of a higher quality than a normal retinal image. We can measure and therefore monitor the thickness of all the key layers within the back of the eye so that we can pick up changes in thickness even when they look normal.

Glaucoma is a good example of how OCT can benefit you. Frequently this shows no symptoms until the later stages, by which time there will have been a severe and permanent loss of the field of vision. OCT 3D scans can identify subtle changes in the thickness of the layers at the back of the eye so that glaucoma can be detected and treated in its early stages. This is only one of many problems that can be detected.

[www.observatory.co.uk](http://www.observatory.co.uk)

This technology is currently available at our Muswell Hill Practice:  
MUSWELL HILL 02084 440143