



Northumbria Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Retinal examination

Issued by Child Health

building a caring future

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www.northumbria.nhs.uk

This leaflet has been produced to provide you with information about retinal examinations for babies and young children who have been seen for a child protection medical assessment. If you have any further questions, please ask the doctor looking after your child.

What is a retinal examination?

A retinal examination is an examination of the back of the eye.

Why is my child having a retinal examination?

This test is being done to look for any signs of bleeding in the retina (the back of the eye). The doctor looking after your child will explain why this test is needed for your child.

Where is the retinal examination done?

This test is done by a specialist eye doctor (ophthalmologist) in the Eye Department at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

What happens during a retinal examination?

When your child arrives at the Eye Department, they will be given some eye drops to enlarge their pupils so the back of the eye can be seen more easily. When the drops have had time to work, some tiny clamps may be used to keep the eyelids open whilst the eye doctor looks at the back of your baby's eye. Local anaesthetic drops will be given so that the procedure will not hurt, however your baby may be a little distressed by being disturbed and having a light shone in their eyes, but the procedure only takes a few minutes. You will be asked to help hold your baby as still as possible during the examination.

How will I get the results of the retinal examination?

The eye doctor who carries out the examination will usually explain the results to you at the time. The eye doctor will also contact the doctor looking after your child with the results. If there are any findings on the examination, the doctor looking after your child will arrange to discuss the results with you further.

Will the retinal examination need to be repeated?

This test does not usually need to be repeated. Occasionally, the first eye doctor may request that a colleague has a second look and if bleeding is found, we may wish to take some photographs of the back of the eyes.

If you have any further questions about the test, please ask the doctor caring for your child.

Alternative Formats

If you would like a copy of this information in large print, another language, audio tape or other format please call the Contact Centre on 03 44 811 8118.

Other sources of information

NHS 111

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/pages/homepage.aspx

NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

www.nice.org.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Freephone: 0800 032 0202

Text: 07815 500015

Email: northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General Enquiries 03 44 811 8111

www.northumbria.nhs.uk

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