What is Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)?

OCT is an imaging method used to generate a picture of the back of the eye, called the retina. The picture is made by precisely measuring the amount of a dim red light that reflects off the retina. OCT is routinely used to image the eyes of patients with glaucoma.

The thickness of the nerve layer in the retina is easily measured with OCT. OCT is therefore being tested as a new way to follow patients with MS and test their recovery and response to treatments.

How is OCT performed?

The participant rests their chin on the machine, and has to look into a lens. Nothing touches the eye. The OCT scan takes just a few minutes per eye.

Participants are also asked to undergo a bedside neurological exam (if not already performed by their doctor) and vision testing (reading a special eye chart).

Total time required of the participant is about 45 minutes.

Who can participate? What are the risks?

We are looking for participants with Multiple Sclerosis, Optic Neuritis, other neurological diseases, and normal volunteers. Participants cannot have a history of glaucoma or any other known eye disease.

There are no anticipated health risks. Information gathered will remain confidential. Some participants do notice temporary eye fatigue or dryness from looking into the machine.

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