

Before your initial consultation, please complete the New Patient Information Form and be sure you bring your **insurance card** and a **photo ID**. Also bring the distance glasses you are currently using (even if you wear contact lenses), reading glasses (if you have any) and sunglasses.

If you are diabetic, bring your most recent blood sugar results and Hemoglobin A1c (3 month blood test) results. Be ready to discuss your family history of eye disease.

WHAT TO EXPECT

A patient's initial consultation at Bennett Eye Institute lasts about an hour and a half and includes a comprehensive eye evaluation. Eyes are dilated and vision becomes blurred for a brief period of time. Although the effects of dilation (difficulty reading and using a computer) can last up to 6 hours, most people can drive after the exam.

A technician will perform a series of brief tests to determine the quality of your eyesight and whether you have a retinal problem:

- ▶ **Visual acuity:** Clarity of your eyesight. A 20/20 visual acuity means you can read the same size letters as a person with perfect vision can read when you are both twenty feet away. A 20/40 vision acuity means that the smallest letters you can read at 20 feet are the same letters as a person with perfect vision can read at 40 feet.
- ▶ **External examination:** The technician will test the alignment of your eyes, function of the muscles and function of the pupils. The surface of the eye and lids will also be examined for any change or abnormality.
- ▶ **Intraocular pressure:** Excessive pressure in the eye can cause damage to the nerves in the eye & can be a sign of glaucoma.
- ▶ **Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT):** OCT takes multiple pictures of the central retina, creating a topographical map and comparing it to average healthy eyes. It is commonly used to look for swelling in the retina.
- ▶ **Microperimetry (MP):** MP tests the function or strength of the cells in the central retina. It can often detect changes in the cells before they are apparent to the patient or doctor.
- ▶ **Retinal exam:** The doctor will examine the back of your eyes and the periphery, looking for any abnormality or area that may need to be treated.
- ▶ **Fluorescein Angiography (FA):** This test photo documents any findings in the retina. It requires an injection of light sensitive dye into the arm that is followed by a sequence of photos, mapping the circulation & function of the blood vessels in the eye.

The doctor will review the tests with you and explain the results. Further testing might be necessary to make a diagnosis. The doctor will provide you with a full explanation of the condition and a plan for treatment.

INSURANCE AND FEES

We participate with most insurance plans. However, you may need a referral from your primary care provider to be eligible for insurance coverage for the visit. Please verify that your insurance is up-to-date and that you are eligible. A staff member may assist you in reviewing your coverage plan and completing and submitting insurance forms on request.

Some insurance plans will cover the total cost of your office visit and/or surgery; some plans will only cover part of it. You will be asked to pay the difference at the completion of your visit. We accept cash, check, AMEX, MasterCard, Visa and Discover.

If you are uninsured we can provide an estimate for the office visit and discuss a payment schedule if needed.

You will be responsible for paying all charges not paid by your insurance.