



Retinoscopy

This material will help you understand retinoscopy and how it is used.

What is retinoscopy?

Retinoscopy is a technique used by eye doctors to measure refractive errors. Refractive errors include nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. Measuring a refractive error is the way to determine if a child needs glasses. Retinoscopy is a reliable test even for children and infants.

How is retinoscopy performed?

Before a retinoscopy is performed, a child's eyes are usually dilated using eye drops. The pupils are the black areas in the center of the eyes. Dilation makes a child's pupils larger and prevents them from changing size. This helps the doctor measure a refractive error more accurately.

During retinoscopy, a doctor uses a hand-held instrument called a retinoscope. The retinoscope projects a beam of light into the eyes. By observing the movement of the light through different power lenses the doctor can determine a child's glasses prescription.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/95>

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