

## **Visual Field Study**

The visual field is the total area in which objects can be seen in the peripheral vision while the eye is focused on a central point.

### **Why it is performed**

The test detects any loss of peripheral vision and provides a map of that loss which is helpful in diagnosing the cause.

### **How to prepare**

No special preparation is required before taking the visual study test.

### **How it is performed**

**Confrontation visual field exam:** A basic evaluation of the visual field done by an examiner sitting directly in front of the patient. With one eye covered, the patient is asked to look at the examiner's eye and tell when they can see the examiner's hand.

**Tangent screen or Goldmann field exam:** The patient is asked to sit about 3 feet from a screen with a target in the center and to stare at the central target and let the examiner know when they can see an object brought into his or her peripheral vision. The extent of your peripheral vision is mapped.

**Automated perimetry:** The patient sits in front of a concave dome and stares at a central target within the dome. A computer-driven program flashes small lights at different locations within the dome's surface, and the patient presses a button when they see the small lights in his or her peripheral vision. Patient's responses are compared to age-matched controls to determine the presence of defects within the visual field.

### **Results**

The peripheral vision is normal in extent. Abnormal results may indicate diseases that affect the visual field, such as diabetes, hypertension, pituitary gland disease or multiple sclerosis.

### **How it feels**

There is no discomfort with this test. Some visual field tests take a long time and may be tiring.

**What the risks are**

The test has no risks.