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## Heidelberg Retinal Tomography (HRT)

You've already heard of tomography. You've probably used the term yourself without realizing it. The CAT in CAT Scan stands for Computed Axial Tomography.

Tomography is simply the process of using computers to generate a three-dimensional image from two-dimensional X-ray pictures. A tomogram is an image done in sections or by sectioning. (A device used in tomography is called a tomograph, while the image produced is a tomogram.)

Tomography has become a widely used tissue imaging technique in many biomedical fields and is especially helpful in eye and vision care.

Heidelberg Retinal Tomography (HRT) is a system that uses a laser-scanning camera and specialized software to evaluate the health of your optic nerve. The HRT is especially useful at detecting small changes in the optic nerve over time.

HRT may diagnose glaucoma years before symptoms become apparent to the patient. Glaucoma usually has no symptoms and the damage done by the increased pressure is irreversible. This is an extremely important test for patients at risk for glaucoma. Diagnosing glaucoma early means that treatment can begin before damage has been done to the optic nerve and retina.

The Heidelberg Retinal Tomograph is painless and takes less than 15 minutes to complete. For those at risk of developing glaucoma, it is important to have this test performed annually to check for any visual or pressure changes.