

Why might I be dilated?

1. Retinal Tears or Detachments

These are small tears in your retina that could cause blindness if untreated. Dilation is the only way to detect if you have one of these. For this reason, we recommend that every patient be dilated on their first examination here. If you are very nearsighted, the chances you have this are higher.

2. Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a disease where you slowly lose your vision over time. Examination of the optic nerve is the first step in diagnosing glaucoma. If anyone in your family has or had glaucoma, it is important that we perform testing on you regularly.

3. Diabetes

Diabetics have a high risk for developing blindness because of the possibility of blood vessels breaking and bleeding inside the eye. If detected early enough, we can spot these vessels that are likely to break and bleed, and can perform techniques to decrease the chances of such an event. Every diabetic should undergo dilation a minimum of every 12 months.

4. High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure causes arteries to push on veins, causing them to leak. Dilation is the only way to know if this is happening.

5. Macular Degeneration

This occurs when fats get deposited in the center part of your retina. It is especially prevalent in Caucasians and Asians over the age of 50, and tends to run in families. Dilation is the only way to diagnose this condition.

6. Cataracts

Cataracts are a common occurrence in patients over the age of 50. They often lead to difficulty driving at night, yellowing of vision, decreased vision, and glare.

7. Children

In order to obtain an accurate prescription for children under the age of 13, it is often necessary that they be dilated

Please sign and date below stating that you have read and understand the reasons for the dilation to be performed.

Patient Signature

Date

Please take a minute to let us know your preference below.

YES, I would like to be dilated.

(Please note: Dilation is an additional \$20, if you do not have insurance)

I would prefer to discuss my specific health with the Doctor and proceed with his/her recommendation on being dilated.

NO, I would prefer not to be dilated, unless it is a medical necessity for my health.

(I understand the risks associated by choosing not to have this test performed. Including, but not limited to, blindness, vision loss, and undiagnosed eye conditions).