Axial Eye Length Biometry

What is an Axial Eye Length Biometry?

Axial Eye Length Biometry (“A-Scan” or “Biometry”), uses sound waves to measure the length of the eye and the thickness of structures inside the eye. A medical eye doctor (Ophthalmologist) uses these measurements to evaluate your eyes prior to cataract surgery. Also, the doctor uses these measurements to choose a new lens for you. This lens will be placed inside the eye once the cataract is removed. A specially trained technician (also referred to as a Registered Ophthalmic Ultrasound Biometrist – ROUB) performs this test.

Note: This test uses low frequency ultrasound. To date, there are no confirmed adverse effects in humans caused by exposure to diagnostic levels of ultrasound.

What Can I Expect While at California Pacific Medical Center?

Before the Test

- Call (415) 600-3937 to schedule an appointment.
- Go to the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center at 2100 Webster Street, Suite 219.
- Bring your insurance information with you to the appointment.

During the Procedure

Your technician will:

- Places drops in your eyes to numb them for about 15 minutes. Your eyes will not be dilated. You will not feel any discomfort during this test.
- Takes you into the Ultrasound suite and positions you comfortably in a slightly reclined position.
- Places a small device on the eye to hold the lids open.
- Uses a small probe to direct sound waves into the eye for the measurements. You will not be aware of this process. Measurement of each eye takes approximately 5 minutes. Generally speaking, both eyes are measured at the same time.
• Lastly, after the measurements are completed, the technician removes the device and rinses the eye with a sterile saline solution. You should NOT rub your eyes with any tissue for 30 minutes.
• Your eye measurements are given to your medical eye doctor prior to your surgery.

After the Test
• You may drive after this test, but plan for a 20-minute break after the test prior to driving. Check with the staff before you leave to ensure you are safe to drive.
• You may resume your normal activities 20 minutes after the procedure when your eyes return to your normal vision.

More Ways to Learn
Go to www.cpmc.org/learning to find more learning resources at California Pacific Medical Center.

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| **Question:** During this test, a specially trained technician uses ultrasound to measure structures within the eye. True or False?  
**Answer:** True. Axial Eye Length Biometry is the measurement, using ultrasound, of structures within the eye. |
| **Question:** Is this test painful?  
**Answer:** Axial Eye Length Biometry is a completely painless test. |
| **Question:** Can I drive home after Axial Eye Length Biometry?  
**Answer:** You should not drive home immediately after this test. You should plan for a 20-minute break after the test prior to driving. Check with the staff before you leave to ensure you are safe to drive. |