



SOUTHERN RETINAL
INSTITUTE

Patrick Sean O'Sullivan, MD

Welcome to Southern Retinal Institute

We believe in providing you with personal, attentive, professional and convenient care. Alongside personalized care, we utilize the latest technology and treatments. We accept new patients every day, and urgent or emergency referrals are seen the same day.

When you arrive at one of our offices for your appointment, you will be greeted by our receptionist who will help check you in and make sure we have all your current contact, health, and insurance information.

Request an Appointment

Our friendly appointment staff is here to help ensure you receive the care you need when you need it. Simply call the office location nearest you.

- Our Covington location phone number is 985-590-5339.
- Our Metairie location can be reached at 504-264-9428.
- In addition, we can also be reached at 504-312-1038.



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Patient Forms

For your convenience, we have enclosed our new patient forms to be completed prior to your initial visit. Please bring the completed forms along with a current list of your medications, your insurance card, and driver's license/ ID to expedite your check-in process.

Evaluation and Diagnosis

Our medical team can often evaluate, test, diagnose, and treat you all on the same day. As a result, an initial comprehensive evaluation, with or without treatment, could last anywhere from **one to three hours**.

A technician will ask all first-time patients to provide a thorough medical history, including all medications. On each subsequent visit, we will perform a vision test, measure the intraocular pressure, and dilate the eyes. After dilating eye drops are placed in the eye, a minimum of thirty minutes will be needed to allow your pupils to dilate adequately. Once your eyes are dilated, the physician will examine you.

Sometimes we may request additional testing, and it is often possible to perform and interpret these tests during the same visit.

We always suggest that you bring someone to drive you home since your eyes will remain dilated for several hours. Sunglasses may help reduce glare; if you need some,



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please ask at the front desk before you leave. In addition, our receptionist can help you arrange for transportation.

Full Range of Testing

We provide a full range of testing, using the latest technology and equipment, including:

- **Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)** – a non-invasive, non-contact device that obtains an extremely high-resolution, cross-sectional image of the affected area, and enhances diagnosis and treatment of patients with macular degeneration, macular holes, epiretinal membranes, diabetic macular edema and other macular diseases.
- **Diagnostic Ultrasound** – uses sound waves to form an image of the eye and is used to examine the inside of the eye.
- **Fluorescein Angiography** – involves the injection of a small amount of vegetable-based dye through a patient’s peripheral vein — usually the arm or hand. Shortly after, a certified ophthalmic angiographer takes a series of time-dependent retinal photographs. The injected dye lights up the retina’s intricate vascular network and helps pinpoint problem areas.
- **Fundus Photography** – a non-invasive diagnostic procedure that provides photographs of the back of the eye to help determine the health of the optic nerve, vitreous, macula, retina and its blood vessels.



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Treatment

If treatment of your eye problem is indicated, you and your physician will decide the most appropriate course of action. Some types of treatment can be performed in our offices at the time of your visit while others are performed at a surgery center or hospital. Common procedures performed include:

- **Vitrectomy** – A small cutting instrument is used to enter the eye through a 1 mm incision, and the vitreous gel is removed and replaced with a gas bubble. The advantage of this method is that all the debris, scar tissue, and membranes on the retina can be removed, and the retina is flattened at the time of surgery. A laser is used to seal off the tears. This is not an office procedure.
- **Intravitreal injections** – Various medications can be injected directly into the eye's vitreous cavity to treat some eye diseases.
- **Laser treatment** – Laser therapy is used to treat a number of vitreoretinal conditions.