

Screening Skills: Oculomotor Testing, Eye Tracking Skills to Include Saccades and Pursuits

Purpose: To screen eye movement	
Equipment: Tools needed: 2 different targets (e.g. different colored pens or pencils, stickers on a tongue depressor).	
Who is Screened: Optional tier 2 test may be performed on students grade 1 and above upon referral/concern from teacher, parent or nurse.	
Skill Steps	Notes
Screening Set Up	
Ensure adequate lighting	
Procedure	
The student stands with feet shoulder-width apart, arms hanging naturally at their side, directly in front of the examiner.	<p><u>Saccade</u> means horizontal jump eye movement, or side-to-side.</p> <p>Slow <u>pursuit</u> eye movement refers to circular movement, clockwise and counter-clockwise.</p>
Do not give instructions on head or body movement. Scoring of the test is based on whether or not the student is able to track with eyes only or has to use his/her head or body.	
Test distance from the patient: testing is done at the student's reading distance (12 to 16 inches) and is done binocularly.	
<p><u>Saccades</u> are performed in the horizontal meridian only (five round trips). Saccade extent should be no more than ~ 4 inches on each side of the patient's mid-line (~ 8 inches total). Complete five round trips.</p> <p>Instructions to students for saccades:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "When I say red, look at the tip of the red pen. 2. "When I say blue, look at the tip of the blue pen. Remember, don't look until I tell you to." 	
<p><u>Pursuits</u> are performed rotationally, both clockwise (two rotations) and counterclockwise (two rotations). Pursuit path should be no more than ~ 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter. The upper and lower extent of the circular path should coincide with the patient's mid-line. Complete two rotations clockwise and two rotations counterclockwise.</p> <p>Instructions to students for pursuits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Watch the tip of the pen as it goes around. Don't ever take your eyes off the pen." 	
Pass Criteria for Eye Tracking	
<p><u>Saccades</u>: the student should be able to complete smooth, precise round trips without using large head or body movements or over-jumping or under-jumping the target. No rescreening is required.</p> <p><u>Pursuits</u>: the student should be able to track the object without using large head or body movements. No rescreening is required.</p>	
Referral Criteria	
<p>Recommended that Students Receive an Evaluation by an Eye Care Professional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to an eye care professional is recommended if the student must use large head or body movements instead of his/her eyes to track the target, or if the student is unable to complete the task. 	

Helpful Tips:

- Consider using the Symptoms Questionnaire to obtain more vision-related information from teachers and parent/guardian