



# **Ishihara Color Vision Testing**



### Purpose:

Detect color vision defects.

#### **Equipment:**

Ishihara color vision plates.

#### Notes:

- Test with correction and room lights on.
- · Assess each eye individually.
- Most defects are red-green and may be congenital or acquired (more common in males).
- Mainly used in children and patients with non-glaucoma optic nerve issues.

## **Cautions & Interferences:**

- 1. If the patient can't verbalize numbers, have them trace with a tool (not fingers) or use tracing/path plates.
- 2. Everyone should see the first (control) plate.
- 3. If visual acuity is too poor (e.g.,  $\leq 20/800$ ), note that color vision couldn't be tested.
- 4. Ensure the fellow eye is properly covered for accurate testing.

## **Testing Process:**

Explain to the patient that they will read a series of numbers with each eye separately to assess color vision.

- Have them cover the left eye with an occluder.
- Hold the plates about 75 cm (30 inches) from the patient—examiner should hold the book to maintain distance and prevent contact.
- Ask the patient to read the number on each plate.
- If they struggle, ask if they see a number, can trace its path, or see any pattern—or if it just appears as dots.





The first plate in the book is a control plate, and even those who are color blind are able to distinguish the number 12.



Test the left eye in the same manor.

Document as a fraction the number of correct over the number of plates tested (eg. 11/13). Different books may have different number of plates.

Documenting Ishihara color vision testing in Epic is done under "Color" in the Ophthalmology Exam, which is located in the Screen/Assess tab on the left hand side.

You can also document any notes in the 'Note' section.

