

GENERAL PRACTICE INFORMATION

EXAMINATION TIPS

HOW TO MANAGE MASK-RELATED FOGGING

By Dr Alex Ioannidis

Fogging caused by patients' face masks increases the risk of artefactual data collection in a number of devices, including OCT, Pentacam and Optos. For example, in a visual field test, mask-related fogging may cause inferior, peripheral defects that could be misinterpreted as signs of glaucoma.

What causes fogging?

Each exhalation causes a jet of warm, moist air to vent from the top of the mask. When this air comes into contact with the cold device lens it condenses, causing the lens to fog and consequently distort the readings.

It may take several minutes for the fog to clear. Fogging may even affect the results of the next patient's test. A wipe down of the device lens may be required.

How to prevent fogging

Ensuring that warm air is directed downwards will reduce the risk of lens fogging and artefactual imaging defects.

Hold the mask down when using a condensing lens

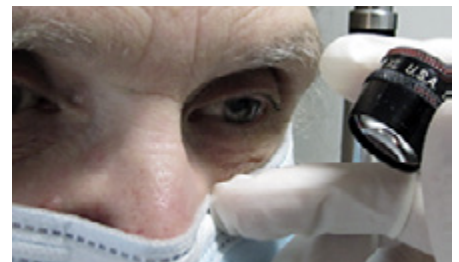
Hold the condensing lens in a gloved hand. As you examine the patient's eye, use the third and fourth fingers of the same hand to hold down the top of the mask underneath the eye. Once the exam is finished, disinfect the lens by soaking it in Milton-Sodium Hypochlorite solution.

Tape down the mask for all other examinations

For best results, ensure the tape extends from underneath the outside corner of one eye, over the bridge of the nose, to beneath the outside corner of the other eye.

Dr Alex Ioannidis is a comprehensive anterior segment surgeon, with extensive experience in the treatment of cataracts, corneal conditions and glaucoma. He consults from Vision Eye Institute's [Blackburn South](#), [Camberwell](#) and [Coburg](#) clinics.

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