

# Optic Nerve Diameter

The **optic nerve diameter** refers to the measurable width of the optic nerve, assessed by imaging techniques such as **MRI**, **ultrasound**, or **fundoscopy**.

## Normal Values

Location	Normal Diameter	Notes
Intraorbital (ultrasound)	3.0 – 5.0 mm	Measured 3 mm behind the globe (standard site)
Intracanalicular (MRI)	~2.5 – 4.5 mm	Depends on age and myelination
Intracranial (MRI)	~4 – 6 mm	Includes nerve and sheath

## Clinical Significance

- **Increased diameter:**
  - Papilledema
  - Optic neuritis
  - Optic nerve glioma or meningioma
- **Decreased diameter:**
  - Optic atrophy
  - Glaucoma
  - Optic nerve hypoplasia
  - Post-radiation changes

## ONSD in Neurocritical Care

**Optic Nerve Sheath Diameter (ONSD)** is a useful non-invasive marker of **intracranial pressure (ICP)**.

- Standard site: 3 mm posterior to globe (ultrasound)
- **ONSD > 5.0-5.7 mm** → suggests **ICP > 20 mmHg**

This measurement is increasingly used in emergency and intensive care settings for rapid screening.

## Ultrasound Measurement of the Optic Nerve Diameter

[Ultrasound Measurement of the Optic Nerve Diameter](#)

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