



# Optokinetic (OKN) Flags & Banners

Part Number: 910603



547400 - 1.5" Red/White OKN Flag



623400 - .75" Black/White OKN Flag  
607700 - 1.5" Black/White OKN Flag  
623500 - 3.0" Black/White OKN Flag



588600 - 1.5" Red/White OKN Banner  
607800 - 1.5" Black/White OKN Banner

An OKN (optokinetic) flag is used to induce nystagmus, which is a regular, repetitive involuntary movement of the eye whose direction, amplitude and frequency are variable. Nystagmus can be induced, acquired, or congenital. It characteristically appears as one of two types: one in which there is a slow and fast phase and the nystagmus is conventionally defined by the direction of the fast phase. This is called 'Jerk Nystagmus' and is typically due to a motor defect.

The second type is characterized by movements of equal velocity in each direction and can be called pendular nystagmus. It is usually the result of poor central vision.

In some cases there is a mix of the two types.

An OKN flag will elicit nystagmus if the resolving power of the eye is such that it can distinguish the stripes. The subject sits in front of the OKN flag (or drum) and the flag is moved horizontally across the visual field. The eyes will respond with a slow movement (0.2 seconds) of the stripes and in the reverse direction with the fast movement (0.1 seconds) of the stripes. When the OKN has been elicited, this gives evidence of vision. Some practitioners advise the subject to try to 'count the red stripes'.

Beware that a practiced malingerer may suppress the nystagmus by 'staring through' the flag or drum. If this is suspected, an alternative test may be used called the 'swinging mirror' test.