Retroillumination From the Fundus (Red Reflex)

In this technique, you are seeking to visualize media clarity and opacities. The light is directed so that it strikes the fundus and creates a glow behind the abnormality (Figures 4-11A and 4-11B). The defect creates a shadow in the light. Use a moderate beam projected through a dilated pupil. The slit beam and microscope must be nearly coaxial; direct the illumination proximally at 2 to 4 degrees. Shorten the beam to the height of the pupil to avoid reflecting the bright light off of the iris. If your instrument has the capability to do so, you might also adjust the beam into a crescent so its shape will fit the pupil. (Check your user’s manual.) Focus the microscope directly on the pathology using 10X to 16X magnification. Opacities will appear in silhouette. This view is best accomplished if the pupil is dilated.

*Observe: cornea, lens, vitreous*