



# **Fluorescein Angiography**

**Your Questions  
Answered**

**Patient Information  
Leaflet**

## **What is Fluorescein Angiography?**

Fluorescein Angiography is a diagnostic test which provides a detailed view of the blood circulation at the back of your eye.

This is done by injecting a small amount of yellow dye (fluorescein) into a vein in your arm and a series of colour photographs is taken as the dye passes through the blood vessels at the back of eye.

## **Can I eat or drink before the test?**

It is important that you eat and drink as normal on the day of the appointment.

## **Can I drive after the test?**

In order to take your photographs we will need to instil eye drops to widen the pupils. These drops may blur your vision for 9 hours. Therefore we advise that you do not drive after the test. You may also find it helpful to have sun glasses with you if it is a bright day. It is advisable to bring someone with you.

## **What does the test involve?**

When you arrive at the clinic a nurse will test your vision. Eye drops will be put into both your eyes to dilate your pupils. These usually take approximately 30 minutes to work. You will be asked to sign a consent form before the procedure.

Following this, the nurse/doctor will insert a cannula into a vein in your arm or in the back of your hand. This is where the dye will be injected during the test.

When your pupils are dilated you will be seated in front of a camera and the photographer will take a series of photographs. You may find that the light of the camera is very bright.

Then the dye is then injected by the doctor/nurse, and followed by an additional series of photographs taken by the photographer. The test takes about 10-15 minutes although you **may** be at the hospital for about 2-3 hours.

## **Are there any side effects?**

Most people do not experience any side effects. The fluorescein dye will cause a yellow/orange skin discolouration and your urine will be bright yellow/orange in colour for 1 to 2 days. This is normal following the procedure. Drinking plenty of water for the next two days will help flush the dye out through your system.

Uncommon side effects include;

- Transient nausea
- Vomiting
- Itching/Rash
- Fainting
- The injection site may be painful if the dye leaks from the vein into the surrounding tissues.

Although extremely rare, severe allergic reactions have been reported in 4 in 1,000,000 cases.

## **Please inform the doctor/nurse of any of the following:**

- Any known drug allergies
- Any allergies to shellfish
- History of kidney failure or dialysis.
- If you have asthma
- Pregnancy
- If you are breast feeding

## **When will I get my results?**

The results will be studied carefully by the doctor on the day and you will be given a follow up appointment before you leave.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. If anything is unclear or you have any other questions you would like to ask, then please do ask the nurse/doctor before the procedure.

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Revision History

<b>Ref No.</b>	<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Section No.</b>	<b>Approved by</b>
PIL 019	1	October 2013	New Information Leaflet	n/a	Hospital Management Group