

Fluorescein Angiography Photography

If you have difficulty reading this leaflet, please ask us to send you a copy in a larger print size.

If your first language is not English, we can arrange for an interpreter to be available. Please let us know in advance if you require this service.

What is Fluorescein Angiography Photography?

This is a routine eye investigation that provides detailed information about the blood circulation in the retina of your eye, which is a light-sensitive layer of cells that converts light into electrical signals. Photographs of the blood circulation in the retina will help the ophthalmologist (eye doctor) decide what condition you have and if any treatment, such as laser, would be beneficial.

What is Fluorescein?

Fluorescein is a relatively safe injectable dye. Fluorescein is an organic fluorescent compound (orange in colour) and does not contain iodine.

Where will this be done?

As an outpatient in the eye clinic.

How long will it take?

Please be prepared to spend a few hours at the hospital. The photographs can only be taken when the pupils are well dilated. The time this takes can vary from patient to patient. After the test, you are asked to stay for about 30 minutes to ensure no allergies have developed.

Is there anything I should do beforehand?

Please **do not drive yourself** to this appointment as you will have dilation drops put in your eyes, which will make your eyes sensitive to light and blur your vision. **If you have inhalers for Asthma or spray/tablets for Angina, please bring these with you.** You may eat and drink normally before coming to the hospital. If you have diabetes, please bring a snack with you.

What is the procedure?

On arrival, your vision will be tested, your blood pressure checked and if you are diabetic, we may also check your blood sugar level. The procedure will be explained to you, and you will be asked to sign a consent form (if you have not already done so). Although you will sign a consent form for this treatment, you may withdraw such consent at any time afterwards. Please discuss this with your nurse.

Drops will be instilled into both eyes to dilate the pupils, which may take up to half an hour to work. You will also have a cannula placed into the back of your hand or arm.

A small amount of fluorescein is injected through the cannula and rapidly circulates into the blood vessels at the back of the eye. A series of high-speed flash photos will then be taken.

Are there any risks or side effects?

Your skin will turn yellow for up to 48 hours and your urine will be orange/yellow as the body flushes the dye out of your system; please drink plenty of fluids afterwards to help this process. Some patients may feel light-headed due to the camera flashes. Occasionally, patients feel slightly nauseated immediately after the dye is injected and may even be sick, but this feeling passes quickly, and a nurse is with the patient for the entire procedure.

A small percentage of people are allergic to the injected substance, although it is not common. Severe reactions such as anaphylactic shock are extremely rare and treatment is always available if an allergic reaction were to occur.

Please inform us if you have any allergies, serious medical conditions or if you have had a recent heart attack or stroke.

What happens afterwards?

You should stay in the eye clinic for a short time (approximately 30 minutes) to make sure that you are feeling fit and well before you leave. You should not drive for the rest of the day as the dilating drops may affect your reading and driving vision. It would be helpful to come with an escort to accompany you home.

When will I have the results?

The results of the test will be discussed at your next appointment. Depending on the results, treatment may be offered to you straightaway.

Cancelling your appointment?

If you need to cancel or change your appointment, please call the appointments line on **0300 131 4600**.

Consent (Giving your permission)

The staff caring for you may need to ask your permission to perform a particular treatment or Investigation. You will be asked to sign a consent form that says you have agreed to the treatment and that you understand the benefits, risks and alternatives. If there is anything you don't understand or if you need more time to think about it, please tell the staff caring for you. Remember, it is your decision. You can change your mind at any time, even if you have signed the consent form. Let staff know immediately if you change your mind. Your wishes will be respected at all times.

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments please contact the Patient Experience Team – on 0300 131 4731 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4434 Email: esh-tr.accessibleinformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

Reviewed by: Paul Russell (Ophthalmology Staff Nurse)

The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
Ophthalmology Department, Diagnostic, Anaesthetic and Surgery division (DAS)

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
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