

## Patient information

# Fluorescein angiography

### *Important - please read before your appointment*

Fluorescein angiography is a diagnostic test to assess the condition of the blood vessels in the retina at the back of the eye. A small amount of orange dye called Fluorescein is injected into your hand or arm and a series of photographs are taken of the back of the eye.

### What to do

- **Please bring a list of your current medication, as we do not have a copy of this available**
- Eat and drink as normal
- Take tablets and medications as normal
- Please do not wear eye makeup or false eyelashes for this appointment
- It is important to inform the nurse and/or doctor if you are, or suspect you may be pregnant or you are breast feeding.

### What to expect

Drops will be put into your eyes prior to this procedure to dilate the pupils. This effect may last 24 hours; you cannot drive during this time. Please ensure you do not drive yourself to the appointment. You will be asked to sign a form consenting to this test. A small needle will be put in the back of your hand or arm. This will remain in throughout the test and will be removed half to one hour later.

A specialist nurse will inject the Fluorescein dye whilst a photographer begins taking photographs. This can last up to 10 minutes. During this time it is important that you follow the instructions and keep your head still until the test has finished.

You will be kept in the department for 30 minutes after the test to be observed.  
**Please expect to be in the department for around 2-3 hours for the whole procedure.**

## **Side effects**

One in 20 patients experience nausea, feeling faint and/or having itching of the skin. This usually passes quickly.

After the test your skin will be tinged yellow and your urine will be bright yellow for up to 24 - 48 hours after the test. Drink plenty of fluids after the test, as this will help flush the dye through your system. Avoid prolonged exposure to strong sunlight for 24 hours after the test as the dye may cause sunburn.

**If you are diabetic**, you should record your blood glucose and not urine labstix. This is because Fluorescein dye will give a false reading.

**Please note** that if you require a blood test, you must wait 72 hours after having a Fluorescein Angiography.

**Rarely** severe allergic reactions can occur during this test, therefore it is always performed with trained medical staff in the department.

If you have any further questions or worries, either before or after the test, please do not hesitate to ask one of the nurses or contact the Eye Treatment Centre.

If you are unwell before your appointment, please the contact the Eye Treatment Centre as soon as possible to arrange for another appointment.

## **Eye Treatment Centre**

Telephone on **01284 713815 / 01284 712636**  
Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 5.00pm / Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

**For emergencies** at the weekend and out of hours:  
Telephone 01284 713000 and ask to speak to the 'on call' Ophthalmic Doctor.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the disabledgo website link below:  
<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>

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