

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

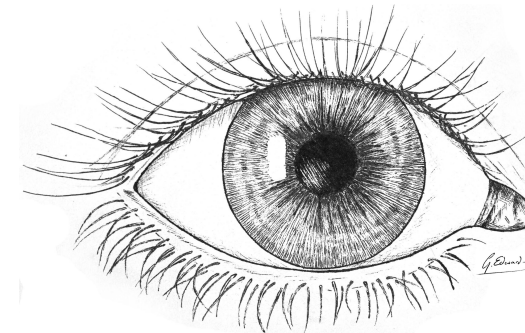
如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。

Designed & Produced by the Department of Medical Illustration,
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Fluorescein Angiography

Ophthalmology



The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- *Wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. Use hand gel, if provided, in care facilities.*
- *If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting stay at home and do not visit relatives that are vulnerable in hospital or in residential care. You will spread the illness.*
- *Keep the environment clean and safe. Let's work together to keep it that way. Prevention is better than cure.*

Introduction

This information is intended for patients who require a Fluorescein Angiogram and explains what the test involves.

What is Fluorescein Angiography?

This is a diagnostic test, which allows the blood vessels inside your eye to be imaged / photographed through dilated pupils. A fluorescent dye is injected into the blood stream via a vein in your arm or hand. This circulates to the eye, and then a series of images (photographs) are taken.

What is Fluorescein?

Fluorescein is a concentrated orange coloured dye. The dye solution highlights blood vessels when imaged / photographed with a special coloured camera filter.

Why do I need to have the test done ?

The test will provide more information about the blood vessels inside your eye than can be gathered through a routine examination. It shows any abnormal blood vessels or leaking areas, which may be causing you problems and will help your Doctor decide on your future care.

What alternatives are there to this test?

If it is not possible to perform this test an alternative test called an optical coherence tomography (retinal scan) may be considered. However this test does not provide as much detail as a Fluorescein Angiography.

Where can I get more information?

We are here to help, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information or advice:

Monday-Sunday between 8.30am -5.00pm

Minor Procedures Dept 01902 695813 / 695831

Eye Referral Unit 01902 695805

Out of Hours: NHS 111

If you have any personal access needs or require wheelchair access and wish to talk to a member of staff please get in touch using our contact details.

References

- Maguire JI, Federman JL (2009) Intravenous fluorescein angiography. In: Tasman W, Jaeger EA, eds. Duane's Ophthalmology. 15th ed. Philadelphia, Pa: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; chap 44.
- Watkinson S et al (2003) Nurse-led management of IV fluorescein angiography Nursing Times, vol 99 (18) pg 34
- Law, M. (2001) A study of adverse reactions to ophthalmic intravenous fluorescein angiography. Ophthalmic Nursing 5:2, 10-14.
- Kwiterovich KA, et al (1991) Frequency of adverse systemic reactions after fluorescein angiography. Results of a prospective study. Ophthalmology 98:1139-1142, 1991

The common side effects are;

- Temporary yellow discolouration of the skin. Urine can remain orange - green in colour for 24 - 36 hours - because the dye is passed from your body via your kidneys
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Skin Rash

Less common side effects:

- Breathing Problems
- Fainting
- Itching
- Bleeding into the skin
- Abnormal sense of taste
- Stomach problems
- Skin rash

Uncommon side effects:

An allergic reaction can occur, which can range from a mild skin rash to anaphylaxis (a severe collapse that can occur as the result of an allergic reaction similar to a peanut or bee sting allergy).

Extravasation - This is where the dye leaks into the tissues of the skin. This can result in severe local pain and skin damage

Note - You will be observed throughout the test so any reaction will be treated immediately to prevent it worsening.

Preparation for the test?

- Please advise staff if you are on a low sodium diet as the drug contains sodium
- Caution should be exercised in the use of this drug in pregnancy. Please advise staff if you think you may be pregnant
- Contact lenses must be removed prior to the test and must not be worn for 48 hours afterwards; this is because the dye may remain in the tears and can be absorbed by the contact lens.
- Take all your medication as normal. When you attend It is important you bring a list of your current medication, as these can affect the test.

If you are diabetic

If you are diabetic please ensure you take your normal medication and eat your normal diet.

If you test your urine for glucose levels the Fluorescein dye will make the test less reliable as it discolours the testing strip. However, the procedure will not upset your diabetes control.

What will happen on the day of the test?

You will be in the department for approximately 1½ - 2 hours.

Before the test:

You will have your vision tested.

Drops are administered into both eyes to enlarge the pupils. This is to ensure the best images (photographs) possible. It is important to take images (photographs) of both eyes, even if you only have a problem with one.

You will have your blood pressure checked and be asked about any allergies, medications and medical conditions.

During the test:

This will take place in the photography room, you will be seated in front of a camera with your chin and forehead resting firmly on the rests, and if necessary the nurse will help you keep your head in position.

A small needle is inserted into a vein in your arm or hand. The lights will be turned off and the dye injected into your arm / hand. Once the dye flows through the blood vessels inside your eye, (this only takes a few seconds), the photographer will begin to take lots of images (photographs) (30-40 approx.).

The light from the camera is quite bright but it is very important to keep your eye open, a nurse will help you if necessary. You will then have a short rest before another series of images (photographs) are taken a few minutes later. The whole procedure takes about five to ten minutes.

After the test:

You will be asked to wait in the waiting area for about 30 minutes, to check that there is no reaction to the dye. The needle will then be removed and a small plaster or dressing will be placed over the injection site. You will usually be given another appointment to discuss the results and plan your treatment with the eye doctor, this may possibly be on the same day as the test.

Going home advice

- You are advised not to drive for the rest of the day after you have had this procedure, until your vision has returned to normal
- Fluorescein can affect some blood test results following the procedure. It is therefore advisable to inform staff who are taking any blood tests for 3 - 4 days after the test
- Following fluorescein angiography, it is not advised to breast feed for seven days. This is because the dye can be found in breast milk during this time. It should be expressed and discarded.

Are there any risks involved?

Like all medicines, Fluorescein dye can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.