

Ophthalmology department

# Fundus fluorescein angiography

## Information for patients, relatives and carers

### Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to give you information about **fundus fluorescein angiography**. We hope it will answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have at this time. This leaflet is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact us using the details on the back page.

### What is a fundus fluorescein angiography?

A fundus fluorescein angiography is a procedure for examining the circulation of blood in the back surface of your eye, known as the retina.

The test is a diagnostic test that allows us to see if there are problems with the circulation in your retina. We will explain the procedure and answer any questions you have beforehand.

### Why am I having a fundus fluorescein angiography?

There are many different conditions that can affect the circulation of blood in your eye. A fundus fluorescein angiography can be useful in determining the exact diagnosis or retinal problem. Understanding the cause, or extent of a retinal disease, will help us to provide the correct treatment.

### What happens during the procedure?

Before the procedure, we need to give you eye drops to enlarge your pupils. This is to ensure that we have an overall view of the fundus (interior surface of the eye) when we perform the procedure.

During the procedure a fluorescent dye called fluorescein is injected into a vein in your arm. The dye travels quickly throughout your body, to your eye. As soon as the fluorescein is injected, several pictures are taken of your eye with a special camera to record the blood flow in your retina.

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- A small amount of fluorescein will be injected into your vein in your arm or at the back of your hand through a cannula (a small tube that has been placed into a vein).
  - A medical photographer will take a series of photos of your eye with a fundus camera, so you will see bright flashing lights.
  - Your eyes will not be touched during this test.
  - The test takes about five to ten minutes to complete.

As we are injecting a drug into your vein, you need to give us formal consent to do this, and no treatment can be given without your consent.

### Are there any side effects?

As the dye is yellow in colour, your urine may be bright yellow for a couple of days. Your face may appear slightly yellow after the procedure, particularly if you have light skin.

We recommend drinking plenty of water after the test, to flush the dye from your body. One in 10 patients may feel nauseous (sick) or vomit during the test.

Rarely, other reactions to the dye occur. These include an itchy rash and, very rarely, anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction), which affects 1 in 10,000 patients.

We recommend that you stay in the hospital for at least half an hour following the procedure. This is to make sure you don't have any delayed reactions to the dye.

If you feel unwell after you go home, please go to your nearest A&E.

### Is there anything I need to do before having the procedure?

Please tell us if you have any allergies, such as iodine or shellfish, and any medical conditions such as:

- heart problems
- breathing problems
- history of seizure disorders

Please also tell us if you are pregnant or if you feel unwell in any other way before having this injection.

### Who can I contact for more information?

- Emergency Department at Western Eye Hospital – 020 3312 3245
- Outpatients at Western Eye Hospital – 020 3312 3236
- Outpatients at Charing Cross Hospital – 020 3311 1109/ 1233/ 0137

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## How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at [imperial.pals@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.pals@nhs.net) The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street  
London W2 1NY

Email: [ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net](mailto:ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net)

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

## Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:  
[imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

## Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: [www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)

Ophthalmology Department  
Published: November 2023  
Review date: November 2026  
Reference no:1152  
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