

- Less common potential side effects are dizziness, sneezing, rashes, itching and bronchospasm (where it can affect your breathing and cause a tightness of your chest).
- There is a very small risk of anaphylactic shock and heart attack, which is extremely rare with a 1 in 100,000 chance of it occurring.
- The dye will make your skin and urine light yellow for a day or two. Its important to drink plenty of fluids to flush the dye through your kidneys.
- Very occasionally the fluoresce in dye, once injected goes outside of the vein into the skin tissue causing pain. In the unlikely event that this does occur use cold compress and take pain relief. It will take approximately a week for your skin to return to normal.

## When will I get the results?

The results of the procedure will be studied carefully by the doctor who requested the procedure. If you do not have a follow up appointment made, an appointment will be sent out to you once the doctor has looked at the results. It is important that you take any tablets or medicine as normal, and to eat and drink as normal.

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# Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA)

## Information for patients

**If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.**

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید، لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie, proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil, vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتسبيق  
بسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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## What is a fundus fluorescein angiography?

Fundus fluorescein angiography is a diagnostic photographic procedure that uses a contrast dye to give a detailed view of the retinal circulatory system at the back of your eye. This shows any blocked or leaking blood vessels, or new blood vessel formation. This assists the doctor in deciding on the best treatment for your condition.

## What happens in the clinic?

- The nurse undertaking the fluorescein clinic, will call you in time order depending on your appointment time. It is important that you inform the nurse at this point if you are sensitive to any drugs, are pregnant, or are breast-feeding.
- You will be informed about how the procedure is performed, including a brief explanation of the potential risk and side effects. Please feel free to ask as many questions as needed before you sign the consent form.
- The nurse will then put drops into your eyes. These drops enlarge your pupil (black part of the eye) and take about 20-30 minutes to work. As these drops temporarily blur your vision for 6-8 hours, it is advisable not to drive yourself to your appointment. You may find it helpful to bring a pair of sunglasses, to protect your eyes from the glare of daylight or artificial indoor lighting following the procedure. As your eyes will be more sensitive to the light following the dilating drops.
- Following this the nurse will insert a cannula (a small plastic tube) into a vein in your forearm or the back of your hand, in order to inject the dye at a later stage.
- When your pupils are fully dilated, you will be called into the camera room and asked to take a seat in front of the camera.

- The photographers will then take a series of initial images, both in colour and black and white.
- Following this, the nurse will inject a small amount of fluorescein sodium dye through your cannula. The dye will go all around your circulatory system and quickly enter the blood vessels at the back of your eye, taking approximately 6-12 seconds.
- As soon as the dye is injected the photographer will begin taking images in three stages, early phase, mid phase and late phase, each phase providing more information.
- Throughout the procedure it is important that you keep your chin on the chin rest, your forehead against the head band and listen very carefully to the instructions that the nurse gives you in order to get the best result.
- Any sudden movement or excessive blinking will interfere with the quality of the image produced. If you have difficulty keeping your eyes open, the nurse will gently assist by lifting your eye lids if required.
- The procedure from beginning to end will take approximately 15–20 minutes. However, you may be in the department longer, depending of the activity of the clinic and how many patients are waiting to be seen before you.

## Are there any side effects?

- Most people experience no ill effects following this procedure, apart from temporary blurring of vision and dazzle from the light of the camera flash.
- However, there is a potential risk of side effects that are common such as nausea (a feeling of sickness) or vomiting. The nurse injecting the dye will be with you throughout the procedure, and will have a vomit bowl available if you require it.