

PATIENT INFORMATION

Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA) & Indocyanine Green (ICG) Angiography

Why has my Eye Specialist arranged for me to have an FFA or ICG?

Fluorescein Angiography and ICG are tests performed by an Ophthalmic Nurse and Ophthalmic Photographer at the request of your Ophthalmologist to provide information about the circulation of your retina (the light sensitive lining inside the back of the eye) and choroid (blood vessel layer).

They are investigations, not treatments, but can assist your Eye Specialist in diagnosing your eye complaint and guide them in making decisions about your treatment options, which they will then discuss with you.

What does the test involve?

Your vision will be tested on the day in the usual way by reading the letters on the chart one eye at a time with your **distance/driving/TV glasses**.

Your pupils will be dilated with eye drops which take about 30 minutes to work and which blur your vision for several hours, so **you should not drive to your appointment and should arrange for someone to take you home**.

You will be asked about any medical problems such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, high blood pressure and heart problems. **Please bring a list of your medications and tell us about any allergies, particularly to fluorescein, shellfish, latex and any medications. Please let us know if you have had an operation to the lymph nodes in your arm pit or if you have a fistula for dialysis.**

The procedure and its potential risks will be explained to you and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions before signing a consent form if you agree to the procedure.

A cannula (tiny plastic tube) will be inserted into a vein in your arm or on the back of your hand while you are seated at the camera.

Once you have your head comfortably positioned at the camera, with your chin on the rest, the lights will be turned down and the fluorescein (yellow dye) and sometimes also ICG (green dye) will be injected into your arm through the cannula, while many photographs are taken of your eyes with **flash photography**. Please follow the photographer's instructions and try to keep your eyes wide open and steady.

The dyes reach the blood vessels at the back of your eye in only a few seconds, but the whole test takes 10-30 minutes and **you will need to be in the eye department for about 2 hours for checks before and after the test.**

Fluorescein will not be administered:

- to children under the age of 16
- during pregnancy
- to mothers who are breast feeding
- to patients who are known to be allergic to fluorescein
- to any patient not willing to have this procedure

What are the possible side effects of these investigations?

Fluorescein dye will cause your skin and urine to appear yellow for 1-2 days. ICG on its own does not do this.

Some people feel a warm sensation up the arm as the dye is injected and about one in ten people vomit or feel nauseated or slightly short of breath for a few seconds about 30 seconds to one minute after the dye is injected. It is therefore recommended that you have only a **light meal** on the day. If you have diabetes, do bring something to eat e.g. digestive biscuits or other snack.

It is possible to have a very severe allergic reaction to these dyes given intravenously. Such reactions are rare (1 in 50,000), but an emergency resuscitation team is always available. The cannula may be left in your hand or arm for 30 minutes after the procedure and removed once we are certain that you have not suffered a reaction.

If you have diabetes, the fluorescein dye in your blood will affect your regular urine and blood sugar test results for about 24 hours, but will not affect your diabetic control.

DO NOT DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY FOR 24 HOURS AFTER THE INVESTIGATION.

If you have any questions or problems please contact:

Eye Clinic ☎ (01803) 655088 or your own General Practitioner

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.