

## Patient information

# **Fluorescein Angiography and ICG Angiography**

Ophthalmology Department Aintree Hospital

### **What is Fluorescein Angiography?**

Fluorescein Angiography is a photographic test to give doctors more information about the condition affecting the back of your eye (the retina) and to decide on the best form of treatment for you.

ICG Angiography is identical in procedure to that of Fluorescein Angiography, but a different type of dye is used.

### **What does the test involve?**

The test is carried out in the Fluorescein Angiography Clinic, which is situated in the Ophthalmology Outpatient Department at Elective Care Centre, Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust.

When you arrive at the clinic your vision is tested and you will then have drops put in your eyes to enlarge the pupil.

The drops will cause some blurring of vision therefore it is advisable that:

- You do not drive until your vision has returned to normal.
- You bring a responsible adult with you.

**Make sure you bring a current list of any medications you are taking, including any non-prescription medicines.**

## **What happens before the procedure?**

### **Before the test begins the nurse will:**

- You will be asked to sign consent to say you agree to the test and that you understand the benefits and risks.
- Ask you some questions about your general health.
- Measure your blood pressure.
- Insert a cannula (needle) into a vein in your arm.

Once your pupils are enlarged, we will take three or four photographs.

Following this, the nurse or doctor will inject a small amount of dye into the cannula and a series of rapid images will be taken.

### **Why do you use dye?**

The dye helps to give us a detailed view of your retina or choroid (the back of the eye).

### **Will you use X-rays?**

No x-rays or radioactive materials are used.

### **How long does the procedure take?**

The whole procedure will take approximately one hour.

However you will have to stay in the clinic for 30 minutes after the test to ensure you have not suffered any ill effects and to allow us to remove the cannula before you go home.

### **What should I expect from the injection?**

Fluorescein dye will give the skin a yellow tinge and your urine will be bright yellow for up to 24/48 hours after the injection.

Drink plenty of water to flush the dye through the system.

There are no discolouration affects with the ICG dye.

Most patients feel no ill effects from the test apart from blurring of vision caused by the drops and some dazzle from the camera flash.

### **Are there any side effects?**

Occasionally some patients experience a feeling of nausea, this usually settles within a few minutes.

The skin may become itchy and a rash may occur.

If this happens, the doctor may need to prescribe an antihistamine.

In extremely rare cases patients may experience a more severe reaction (anaphylaxis) during or just after the injection, that may affect your breathing and heart rate.

If this was to occur we are equipped to deal with this emergency.

### **Would it be OK to have the test if I am on tablets?**

Yes. Take any tablets or medication as normal before coming to the department and please remember to bring a full list of current medication with you, also bring any inhalers you may be using.

### **When will I know the results?**

In most cases you will see the Doctor in clinic immediately following the test, who will go through the results with you.

In a small number of cases you will need to come back to clinic for the results.

### **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further information**

**What to do if you have any concerns or queries do not hesitate to speak to the:**

**Department of Ophthalmic and Clinical Imaging  
Tel:0151 529 0207**

**Ophthalmic Clinic on  
Tel:0151 529 0185**

**Patient Advice and Liaison Services Manager  
Tel 0151 529 3287 or 0151 529 5324)**

**We welcome your feedback and act on it. Therefore, if you have any comments,**

**Author: Ophthalmology Department  
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