

Fluorescein Angiogram The Hillingdon Hospital

This is a special investigation performed in our out-patient department at the Hillingdon Hospital. It may take between one to two hours although the time will vary from patient to patient. It is undertaken to help diagnose or manage your current eye problem and is a very common procedure for us to undertake.

You will have both of your pupils dilated and so **you cannot drive** after this investigation for the rest of the day.

This investigation is done in a separate room but within the Eye Clinic on the first floor of Out patients (Adjacent to Accident & Emergency Department). You will have a small injection of Fluorescein dye given to you via your arm. Photographs of the eye are then taken every few seconds. This is like having a camera flash go off in front of you many times. Once the initial flash has occurred you do not feel the bright flash so much as the eye does not have time to recover.

You may sometimes feel a little sick, this normally passes in a few seconds but if it does not please Let the Doctor or nurse know. Only very occasionally are people actually sick.

During this procedure there will be a nurse or doctor present. When this test is finished the Doctor will give you any further instructions. We ask that you wait up to 1 hour after the test to ensure that you do not have a delayed reaction to the dye.

It is advisable that you have someone to take you home as your vision will be blurred, mainly due to the dilating drops which take several hours to wear off. Occasionally the pupils can still be dilated the next morning but this is nothing to worry about as they always return to normal.

Do NOT have a heavy breakfast or lunch before you come for this investigation as this can induce sickness. **Please** let the Doctor know if you have any allergies.

You will be able to go home after the investigation but remember for that day and the next day your skin will appear yellow and your urine also yellow. **This is only the Dye** which is being excreted from your body and is quite normal.

Adverse reactions to Fundus fluorescein angiography. The frequency of adverse reactions after angiography has varied considerably in previous reports. In a prospective study of 2789 angiographic procedures in 2025 patients, Kwiterovich et al⁵ found that the percentage of adverse reactions depended strongly on the patient's angiographic history. Overall, adverse reactions followed **4.8% of the angiographic procedures**. These reactions included nausea (2.9%), vomiting (1.2%), flushing/itching/hives (0.5%), and other reactions (dyspnea, syncope, excessive sneezing) (0.2%). No cases of anaphylaxis, myocardial infarction, pulmonary oedema, or seizures occurred. The percentage of reactions was 1.8% for patients who had previous angiography without ever having an adverse reaction. An extensive literature search has not revealed any incident of Fluorescein hypersensitivity in the patients with shellfish allergy.

After the test you should drink plenty of water to help wash the dye out of your body which is excreted in your urine and takes 1 - 2 days to be completely removed.

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