

Patient Information Factsheet

About your visit to the Fluorescein Angiography / Indocyanine Green Angiography Clinic

Ophthalmology Department

Your doctor has requested that you have photographs taken of the blood vessels at the back of your eye. This procedure is called angiography. There are two types of dye that can be used, Fluorescein (FFA) or Indocyanine Green (ICG).

Fluorescein is a vegetable-based dye that is bright yellow in colour. When this dye is in our blood stream it helps outline the blood vessels at the back of your eyes and makes them stand out when we take a picture of them.

Indocyanine is a dye that highlights the deep layers at the back of the eye.

What are the benefits of this procedure?

- To help diagnose your eye condition and decide best management
- To check on the progression of your eye condition
- To pinpoint areas in need of laser treatment

This procedure can take up to two hours to complete so please be prepared for this length of stay. We will try and minimise the time you spend at the clinic.

We recommend you bring someone along with you for company and support, but this is not a necessity.

You will not be allowed to drive yourself home after the procedure.

Please inform us if you are or may be pregnant, have any allergies (particularly to Iodine), heart problems, asthma or other breathing problems, or if you are feeling unwell in any way prior to having this procedure.

If you are diabetic, please keep your medication and meal times as usual. If your clinic visit will affect your normal routine, please inform a nurse in clinic for advice before you attend on the number shown below.

The Procedure

On arrival you will need to check in at the main reception. You will have your vision assessed as usual. You will have drops put into your eyes to dilate your pupils. The drops take 20 minutes to take effect and enable the back of the eye to be viewed. They will blur your vision for up to four hours. Please do not drive home following this appointment.

You will have a cannula (small hollow tube) inserted into one of your veins, usually on the back of your hand. Once inserted this is quite painless but will need to remain there throughout your clinic stay. It will be removed before you go home.

Once your eyes are dilated we will sit you in front of a digital camera. There is a comfortable headrest, just like the one used in the doctor's room, but it is important that once you are comfortable you remain still during the procedure.

A nurse or doctor will then inject a small amount of fluorescein (yellow dye) or indocyanine green (green dye) into your blood stream via the cannula already in your hand.

The photographs of the back of your eye will then be taken. You may be required to look in certain directions, but the nurse will help and support you throughout the procedure.

What are the possible risks?

The operation may be done under local anaesthetic, where you remain awake but have an injection to numb the operated area, or under general anaesthetic where you are completely asleep. We will discuss the best choice of anaesthetic with you before the operation. If you are elderly, have heart or chest problems or are overweight, local anaesthetic may be the safest option.

What can I expect after surgery?

The possible risks and disadvantages for this procedure are as follows:

- The dye may make your skin yellowish for several hours and may discolour your urine for a day or two.

- Occasionally a few patients will experience some nausea following the dye injection. This always passes quickly, but if it occurs you should take deep breaths and inform your nurse/doctor.
- Some patients complain of a burning sensation whilst the dye is injected.
- Occasionally patients may experience an allergic- type rash.
- Severe allergic reactions may occur for ICG dye in patients who are allergic to Iodine. **Please inform the doctor/nurse if you are allergic to Iodine or shellfish.**

Rarely, this procedure can cause patients to collapse and need immediate medical care. This reaction is extremely rare (severe reaction 1 in 200, death 1 in 220,000 for Fluorescein (FFA) and for Indocyanine Green (ICG) severe reaction 1 in 10,000 and death 1 in 330,000.

The doctor who has requested this procedure should have explained to you in detail all the possible outcomes before asking for your consent to the procedure. If you are in any doubt, please inform the nurse immediately.

If you have any concerns or require any further information please contact the Urgent Eye Clinic.

Opening times:

- Monday - Friday: 9am to 7pm.
- Saturday: 9am to 12:30pm.
- Closed from Saturday after 12:30pm until Monday at 9am.
- Closed Bank Holidays - please attend your local A&E department.

Contact details:

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Lister Hospital
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