

Fluorescein angiography is a specialised dye test to discover specific abnormalities in the retina. A dye, called Fluorescein, is injected into the vein of your arm and photographs of the back of the eye are taken. The FFA test gives your doctor more information about the condition of your retina in the back of your eye. ICG test provides information about the choroid which lies underneath the retina.

The tests help the doctor to consider the best treatment options for you.

Please tell us if you have any chest or breathing problems. It is also very important to inform us of any allergies **particularly to shellfish, medications, fluorescein, sulpha drugs or latex.**

Your vision will be tested. Your pupils will then be dilated with eye drops; these drops might blur your vision for 3 to 6 hours. It is therefore advisable not to drive home after your appointment. Once your pupils are dilated, you will be taken into the fluorescein photography room. You will be seated at a camera with your arm supported, and some photos will be taken. A cannula (small plastic tube) will be inserted into a vein. The fluorescein dye will be injected into your arm while a series of photos are taken as the dye enters the vessels at the back of your eye.

The whole test only takes about 10 - 30 minutes, but please expect to be in the department for one to two hours so that we can do the necessary pre and post test checks.

The fluorescein dye will give your skin a yellow tinge and your urine will be bright yellow for a few days. You might experience a hot flush sensation as the dye is injected, One in 10 patients might feel nauseous or short of breath, or develop a transient rash, but this rarely lasts for more than a few seconds. There is a very remote risk of a severe allergic reaction to these intravenous drugs. For this reason, an emergency resuscitation team is always available.

The cannula will be left in your hand for half an hour. Once we are certain that you have not suffered any adverse reactions, the cannula will be removed.

Associated risks with Fluorescein angiography

Fluorescein angiography may be associated with any of the following risks:

- Yellow colour change of skin and urine – this affects everyone and lasts 24 hours.
- Nausea – may develop 30 seconds or so after injection, but often passes quite quickly.
- Vomiting – rarely follows nausea and again resolves quickly.
- Fainting or dizziness
- Temporary dazzling
- Temporary rose coloured vision
- Allergy reactions: These are very rare. The most common allergy reaction is an itchy skin rash known as hives. In very exceptional circumstances severe and life threatening allergy reactions can occur resulting in hospitalisation or even rarely in death. (Risk less than 1 in 50,000).

Associated risks with ICG angiography

- Same as above but the dye does not make the skin or urine yellow
- ICG angiogram is thought to have less adverse effects than fluorescein angiogram.
- ICG angiogram does not give the same information as the Fluorescein angiogram therefore sometimes both tests may be necessary

You must not have fluorescein angiography if you are pregnant – please tell your Doctor.

Please inform your Doctor if you have had any reaction to fluorescein angiography on a previous occasion.

The doctor will discuss the results with you at your next consultation or will write to you and your GP and make recommendations for any treatment you might need.