

Information for Patients

Fluorescein Angiography

Eye Unit

What is fluorescein angiography?

This is a simple test, which allows the blood vessels at the back of the eye to be photographed after a yellow dye is injected through a vein in your arm or hand.

Why is the procedure necessary?

- To help the doctor confirm a diagnosis.
- To provide guidelines for treatment if required.
- To keep a record of the condition at the back of your eye.

What does the test involve?

- The test is carried out in the Eye Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital.
- **You will have drops that will blur your vision, so you must not drive to the clinic.**
- During the appointment, an injection of yellow dye will be given into a vein in your arm.

The dye reaches the eye within 30 seconds. A series of photographs will then be taken as the dye enters the vessels at the back of your eye.

- We advise that you wait for 15 minutes after the test before going home.

Are there any side effects?

- Most people feel no ill-effects.
- During the injection you may feel warm or experience a hot flush. Some people feel slightly sick or faint but this only lasts seconds and then passes.
- The dye will tinge your skin yellow and your urine will turn bright yellow. This is entirely normal and can last for 2 to 3 days.
- On very rare occasions, patients may experience breathing or circulatory difficulties which may require the assistance of the emergency team.

Can I eat and drink before the test?

Yes. It is advisable to eat a light meal before the test. If you have diabetes, please ensure you have had enough to eat.

Should I take my normal medication?

Yes. All medication should be continued. Please bring all your medication with you, especially inhalers and GTN spray into the camera room.

Should I inform you of my past medical history?

- Yes, this is very important.
- Please inform us of any allergies or any previous drug reactions that you may have.
- If you think that you may be pregnant, please inform the nursing/medical staff.
- Do you have any significant kidney disease.

Can I drive?

- No. The eye drops will blur your vision, so you must not drive to the clinic or after the test until your vision returns to normal.
- Please ensure that someone accompanies you to the clinic.

When will I know the results?

You will not get the results of the test straight away. The images will have to be carefully studied. The doctor will give you the results at your next appointment.

Appointment

_____ day _____ 20_____

at _____

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg".**