Fluorescein angiography (oral)

Information for parents
Ophthalmology
What is fluorescein angiography?

Fluorescein angiography, sometimes referred to as a 'dye test', is an investigation where a series of photos are taken prior to and following a drink containing orange juice and a small amount of yellow dye.

What are the benefits of having this test?

The test is carried out to help diagnose or monitor certain conditions. The dye shows the circulation at the back of the eye (the retina), and can be used to guide treatment.

Where will the test take place?

The test will take place in the Ophthalmic Imaging Department at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. This is located on A Floor in the Outpatient Department. The entrance is directly opposite the multi-story car park. Please report to the reception desk and they will guide you to the waiting area and let one of the imaging team know you have arrived.

What do I need to know before the procedure?

Before the procedure, your child will be weighed to ensure the right amount of yellow dye is added to the orange drink. You will also be asked to sign a consent form, and your child will have drops put in their eyes to dilate the pupils. The drops will take 20-30 minutes to fully dilate the pupils for imaging. The drops will make your child’s vision blurred for 2-36 hours following the test.

What happens during the test?

You will be able to stay with your child throughout the procedure, however we may have to limit the number of people in the room due to lack of space. If you need to bring other children we have a children’s waiting area they can use if accompanied by another adult.
Your child will be sat at a special camera to have the test, and will have some conventional retinal photographs taken to document the appearance of the back of the eye. The technician will explain to your child that the lights will be bright.

Your child will be asked to drink an orange drink which has been mixed with a small amount of yellow dye. It is best to drink it quickly if possible, and a set of images will be taken on the camera. The time it takes for the dye to start to show at the back of the eye can vary from 5-25 minutes and the technician will take photographs at intervals every few minutes until the end of the test. The length of test varies from person to person depending on what we see but usually takes no longer than 45 minutes after the orange drink.

Your child will be asked to follow fixation targets and will be required to stay as still as possible.

**Consent**

As with any procedure, we must seek your consent beforehand. Staff will fully explain the procedure to you and your child. If you are unsure about any aspect of the test or have any questions please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

Please let us know if your child has any allergies or breathing and heart problems so that we can document these.

**Are there any risks or side effects?**

The yellow dye may give your child's skin a yellow colour for about 3-12 hours and turn their urine bright yellow for up to 48 hours, both of these things are normal. It may also make your child feel slightly nauseous, though this should pass quickly.
Administering Fluorescein orally greatly reduces the risk of allergic reactions. No serious reactions have been reported but mild reactions may include itching or a mild skin rash.

**Are there any alternatives?**

Much of the information we get from this test cannot be obtained in any other way.

**After the test?**

The results will go straight to the doctor and they will suggest the most appropriate follow-up. This may be on the same day but is more likely to be at your next appointment. You will then be able to discuss the results and your child's treatment options in the clinic.

**Who should I contact if I have any questions?**

If you have any questions regarding this procedure please do not hesitate to contact the Ophthalmic Imaging and Angiography staff:

- 0114 226 1460