



Information for  
patients and  
carers

# Fundus Fluorescein Angiography

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the questions below about your health and bring this leaflet with you to your appointment.

**Do you have any allergies? Give details:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you suffer or have you suffered from any of the following conditions?**

- |  |     |                          |    |                          |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1. Heart problems                      | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Irregular heart rate                | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. High blood pressure                 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Respiratory conditions              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Diabetes                            | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Epilepsy                            | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Kidney problems                     | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Liver problems                      | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Are you pregnant or breast feeding? |     |                          |    |                          |
|  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Please bring a list of any medication you are currently taking to your appointment.**

**What is fundus fluorescein angiography (FFA)?**

FFA is a series of photographs of your retinal blood vessels (the blood supply at the back of your eyes) taken after having an injection of fluorescein dye into a vein (intravenous injection).

It is an investigation and an aid to diagnose your eye condition. The results may help your ophthalmologist decide on appropriate treatment for your eye condition.

## **What does FFA involve?**

When you attend for your appointment, you will have your blood pressure and pulse checked. You will then have drops put into your eyes in order to dilate (enlarge) the pupils so that we can get the best possible photographs of the retina at the back of your eyes.

The nurse will explain the procedure and ask you to sign a consent form if you wish to proceed.

A cannula (small plastic tube) will be inserted into a vein in your arm or the back of your hand.

You will be seated at a camera with your chin on a rest, the nurse or doctor will inject the yellow fluorescein dye into your bloodstream through the cannula.

A series of photographs will be taken of the back of your eyes as the dye passes through the blood vessels (concentrating mainly on the eye you are having most problems with); you will see bright flashes of light from the camera.

## **Are there any side effects or risks with FFA?**

- The fluorescein dye will cause your skin to have a yellow tinge and your urine will be bright yellow for 24-48 hours
- Nausea can occur around 30-60 seconds after the injection, however, this tends to pass quite quickly in most people especially if you take deep breaths
- Vomiting (uncommon)
- Fainting or feeling faint
- Leakage of the dye into the skin from the cannula may cause some discomfort
- Skin rash or itching (uncommon)
- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) causing breathing or circulatory problems is extremely rare

## **Are there any alternatives to having FFA?**

Other types of photographs and scans of your eyes are available; however, FFA provides specific information that is often vital to give the doctor the most accurate information possible. It provides detailed views of the blood vessels at the back of your eye that is not possible with other types of images, this information can be essential for the most accurate diagnosis and treatment of your condition.

## **How long does the FFA take?**

The dye injection and photographs take about 10-15 minutes to complete, however please allow approximately 2 hours for the whole appointment.

## **What happens after the FFA?**

You will be asked to stay in the clinic for 30 minutes after the FFA to ensure that you have not experienced any side effects; the cannula will then be removed and you may then go home.

The photographs will be reviewed by your ophthalmic doctor after your appointment. You will be informed of the results either at a follow up clinic appointment or by letter.

## **Can I drive to the appointment?**

It is not advisable to drive yourself to the FFA appointment as the eye drops may cause blurring of your vision for several hours.

## **Can I eat and drink and take my usual medication?**

Yes, you can eat, drink and take your medication as you usually would before the FFA.

After the FFA, drinking plenty of fluids will help to flush the dye from your body.

## **Contact details**

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Ophthalmology telephone triage service: **01257 245346**

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے یئل مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یئچھیا یمن یہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یبان پوے یچھہی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعه بأ حرف كبرى و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعده في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن تو فير هذه المعلومات

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**Division:** Surgery

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