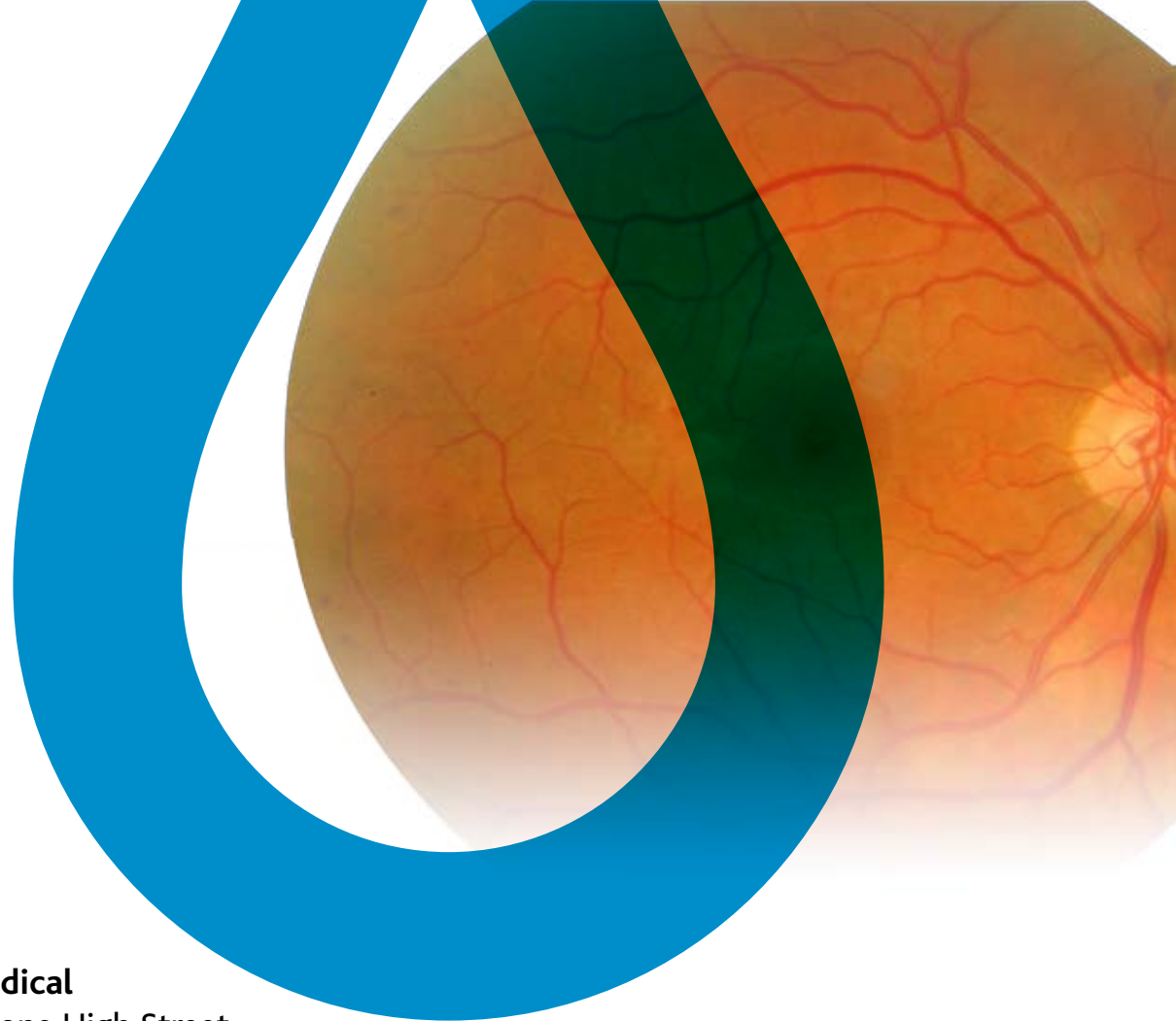


the vessels.

- More photos are taken after most of the dye has passed through the eyes to see if any of the vessels are leaking the dye. If dye leaks out of a blood vessel, it will colour the surrounding tissue and fluid within the eye.
- Photographs are taken for up to 8 minutes, depending on your doctor's request.

3. After

- Once the photographs are completed the cannula is removed.
- You will be asked to rest for about twenty minutes in the waiting room.
- Your vision may be blurred for 3 – 6 hours after the test.
- Do not drive until the effects of the dilating drops wears off.
- Wear sunglasses until your pupils return to normal size. Bright lights and sunshine may hurt your eyes.



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Fluorescein Angiogram

Patient Advice and Information



london medical
eyes

Fluorescein Angiogram

Patient Advice and Information

Why a fluorescein angiogram?

The fluorescein angiogram is an extremely valuable test that provides your ophthalmologist with information about the circulatory system and the condition of vessels in the back of the eye. The angiogram allows the blood vessels in the back of the eye to be photographed as a fluorescent dye is injected into the bloodstream via your hand or arm. A camera equipped with special filters that highlight the dye is used to photograph the fluorescein as it circulates through the blood vessels in the back of the eye. Fluorescein angiography is particularly useful in the management of diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration. If there are any circulation problems, swelling, leaking or abnormal vessels, the dye and its patterns will reveal these in the photographs. This test is performed to help your doctor confirm a diagnosis, to provide guidelines for treatment, and to keep a permanent record of the vessels at the back of the eye.

Are there any side effects?

Adverse reactions can occur in 5 – 10% of cases and are often mild. Nausea and occasional vomiting are the most common and require no treatment. Many patients will also complain of red after-image from the photoflash. Although the lights flashed at you may appear bright, they will not damage your eyes. It is common for the skin to become pale yellow or orange after the angiogram, and for the urine to be coloured fluorescent yellow, for up to 48 hours.

Most severe reactions are rare and include allergy to the dye (swelling of the larynx with breathing difficulties, hives or swelling) and leakage of the fluorescein dye outside the vein it was injected into (causing pain and inflammation). Although life threatening reactions are infrequent, the clinic is well equipped and staffed to manage all these problems, should they occur.

The procedure:

1. Before

- You will first have an assessment with the nurse who will obtain your signed consent once all details of the procedure are explained.
- Ensure you tell the nurse if you: have ever had an allergic reaction to

contrast media such as iodine; have a history of glaucoma; are taking any prescription or non prescription medicines; are or may be pregnant, or are breast feeding

- Remove contact lenses before the test. Afterwards, do not put soft contact lenses back in your eyes for at least four hours, as the contacts may become stained from the dye.
- Eye drops will be placed in both eyes to dilate (widen) the pupils. Depending on eye colour, these take 15 – 30 minutes to take effect.

2. During

- You will be seated in a chair facing the camera. You will be asked to place your chin on a chin rest and your forehead against a bar to stabilise your head.
- A series of baseline photographs of your eyes will be taken.
- An intravenous cannula is then placed in a vein in your arm or hand and its correct position verified.
- Once injected, the dye takes approximately 10 – 15 seconds to become visible in the vessels in your eyes.
- While the fluorescein dye is injected, you may feel nauseous or flushed. These symptoms pass quickly.
- As the dye enters the eyes, a rapid series of photographs is taken to chart the dye's progress through