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FLUORESCEIN ANGIOGRAPHY

Q *What is fluorescein angiography?*

A It is a photographic test which is used in the diagnosis of disease in the retina, at the back of the eye.

Q *How is the test done?*

A A special dye called "fluorescein" is injected into a vein in your arm. It circulates in the bloodstream and as it passes through the eye a series of photographs are taken over three to five minutes.

Q *How are the photographs taken?*

A You will be asked to put your chin and forehead on a special headrest which lines up your eye with the camera. You will look at a target while the pictures are taken.

Q *Are there any side effects of fluorescein angiography?*

A Yes. Fluorescein is a yellow dye and after it is injected your skin will look yellow for about 24 hours. The dye passes naturally out of your body in the water so you will notice that your water is darker than usual. After this everything returns completely to normal. Occasionally a person having fluorescein angiography may feel slightly uncomfortable. If this happens the test can simply be stopped. Although more serious side-effects, due to allergies to fluorescein, can occur they are very rare.

Q *Are there any long-term after effects of fluorescein angiography?*

A No.

Q *How quickly is the result of this test available?*

A The pictures can be viewed on a computer immediately after the test. However it is usually necessary to analyse them in more detail during the days following the test. The result will normally be discussed with you at your next clinic visit one or two weeks after the test.

*Further copies of this and other Information Sheets can be downloaded
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