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Patient Information:

What is a Fluorescein Angiogram?

Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA) is an extremely v aluable test that provides information about the circulatory system and the condition of the back of the eye – the fundus or retina. Fluorescein is the type of dye that is used and an angiogram is a study of the blood vessels. FFAs are useful for assessing many eye diseases that affect the retina.

The test is performed by injecting the fluorescein dye into a vein in the arm. In just seconds, the dye travels to the blood v essels inside the eye. A digital camera equipped with special filters that highlight the dye is used to photograph the fluorescein as it c irculates through the back of the eye. If t here are any circulati on problems, swelling, I eaking or abnormal blood vessels, the dye and its patterns reveal these in the photographs. Mr Tanner can then make a diagnosis, and decide possible treatment options.

Fluorescein Angiogram Procedure

- The procedure itself is short and simple.
- Eye drops will be instilled in each eye to make your pupils larger.
- An ophthalmic photographer will then take pictures of the retina using a special camera.
- Next, the doctor will inject a small amount of the dye into your arm, much like a blood test.
 This will colour your blood brightly for a couple of minutes.
- Following the injection, photos are taken quickly over a period of 60 seconds.
- A few more pictures are then taken during the next 10 minutes.

Things you may notice

- Your vision may be dark or have a colour tint for a few minutes.
- Objects close to you may appear unclear because of the eye drops you received.
- Your urine will be bright yellow for a day or two as your body eliminates the dye.
- Your skin may have a yellowish colour for a few hours following the injection.
- The lights flashed at you are very bright but will NOT damage your eyes.
- Because your pupils are larger you may be more comfortable wearing dark glasses afterwards.
- You may experience a short wave of nausea after the injection. This passes very quickly.

Risks

In very rare cases,	you could react to the dye	. For this reason v	we ask you to	remain in the
hospital Eye Depar	rtment for half-an-hour afte	r the procedure.		

There is a very small risk of serious complications (collapse, death). Therefore, this test is only done when your doctor thinks it is essential for diagnosis and/ or treatment planning.