



## **Fluorescein Angiography Information for Parents**

### **Why is this test necessary?**

There are three reasons why a fluorescein angiography is performed:

- To establish a diagnosis
- To demonstrate to the doctor which area in the eye needs to be treated
- To document the eye condition at the time of examination

### **What will happen?**

Your child's vision will be checked and their pupils dilated with eye drops. Local anaesthetic cream will be applied to your child's arm, and a small amount of the yellow dye "fluorescein" injected into a vein. This dye circulates through the body and into the blood vessels in the retina, highlighting any abnormalities such as blood leaking from the vessels or swelling on the back of the eye. The photographer will take a series of photographs very quickly after the dye is injected. The photographs will be shown to the doctor, who will discuss treatment options with you and your child.

### **Are there any side effects?**

Most children do not experience unpleasant side effects from a fluorescein angiography. Your child's skin will go slightly yellow, as will their urine, and this may last up to 24 hours. If your child is a baby, do not worry if their nappy is yellow or orange: this is the dye passing through the urine. Encouraging your child to drink plenty of water afterwards will help to flush the dye out of their system more quickly.

Very rarely, nausea or sickness may be experienced. Some people experience itching or tingling, which can be treated immediately with

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an antihistamine. Rarely, collapse has been reported following a fluorescein angiography. It would therefore be preferable if you and your child could stay in the Richard Desmond Children's Eye Centre (RDCEC) for at least 30 minutes following the procedure, just in case your child has any unusual delayed reactions.

Should your child feel unwell after you have left the RDCEC, return to Moorfields or to your local A&E department, or telephone the Children's Ward (Monday to Friday, 8am – 7pm) on 0207 566 2595/6 for further advice.

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