

Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Indocyanine Green (ICG)

Information for patients

What is the procedure?

Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA) is a diagnostic test during which a fluorescent dye is injected into the bloodstream via a cannula (tube) in your arm or in the back of your hand. This circulates to the eye and a series of flash photographs are taken over a period of 10-15 minutes. This dye highlights the circulation of the retina (back) of the eye and will show if there is damage or leakage to the blood vessels. This will help your eye doctor to diagnose what (if anything) is causing a problem with your sight. It will also help your eye doctor to decide on a plan of treatment, or even if any treatment is required at present. The Indocyanine Green (ICG) test provides information about the choroid layer which lies underneath the retina.

What does the test involve?

You should expect to be in the department for approximately one and a half to two hours. As preparation for the test the nurse will put in drops which will dilate your pupils. These will blur your vision for a number of hours until they wear off. **You should not drive yourself in for your appointment; ideally you should have someone with you to take you home.** The drops will take approximately 15-20 minutes to work.

The nurse will check your eyesight and enquire about your general health, any medications that you are taking and if you have any allergies. Certain allergies may prevent you from

having the test. You will be asked to give your written consent. This may have already taken place at the consultation with your doctor explaining the procedure its purpose and its complications. If you have any further questions please consult the nurse, who will try to answer your questions.

Please eat and drink normally before the test and take all of your normal medication.

The nurse will escort you into the photographic room and will insert a small cannula into your arm or in the back of your hand. The dye is injected rapidly and a photographer will take a number of flash photographs. The nurse will remain with you throughout the test.

Once the test is finished the nurse will take you back to the waiting area and you will rest for approximately 30 minutes. Once it is established that you have had no side effects, the cannula will be removed and you can go home.

Are there any side effects?

During the injection you may experience a 'hot flush' sensation, this usually lasts for a few seconds. The most common side effects are nausea, light headedness and skin rash and/or itching. These, if they occur, will disappear within half an hour. As with any invasive procedure a small number of people will have a severe reaction (in this case to the dye itself) and so emergency equipment is available in the room should it be required.

Your skin will be tinged yellow in colour as will your urine. This is due to your body excreting the dye itself. This can take approximately 24-48 hours and you will be encouraged to drink plenty of fluids to help 'flush' the dye out.

If you are to have an ICG test as well, this does not discolour your skin and is thought to have fewer adverse effects than an FFA test. The ICG dye contains iodine; if you are allergic to iodine or shellfish please let the doctor know. The ICG test does,

however, give different information to the FFA test and so, therefore, sometimes both tests may be necessary.

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding, please inform the nurse or doctor before proceeding. There are thought to be no risks or adverse reactions associated with pregnancy, but the test is usually avoided especially in the first three months.

Will I need a follow up appointment?

It may be the case that your doctor wants to examine the result more closely before arranging a follow up appointment. Sometimes, if the doctor is available on the day, it is possible to discuss the results on the same day as the test. The technician who undertook the test will inform the doctor who originally requested the test so that he/she can review the images. If you have any questions please contact you consultant's secretary.

Useful telephone numbers

Appointments
01622 228218



Maidstone Hospital Eye Clinic
01622 226228 (answerphone)




Tunbridge Wells Hospital Eye Clinic
01892 633877 (answerphone)



Further information and advice can be obtained from:

NHS 111

 **111**

NHS Choices online

www.nhs.uk

Please use this space to write any notes or questions you may have.

MTW NHS Trust is committed to making its patient information accessible in a range of languages and formats. If you need this leaflet in another language or format please ask one of your clinical care team or the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). We will do our best to arrange this.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust welcomes all forms of feedback from our service users. If the standard of service you have received from the Trust does not meet your expectations, we want to hear from you. Please speak with the ward manager or the nurse in charge in the first instance, or you can contact the **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)** on:

Telephone: ☎ 01622 224960 or ☎ 01892 632953

Email: mtw-tr.palsoffice@nhs.net

or visit their office at either Maidstone or Tunbridge Wells Hospital between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

You can be confident that your care will not be affected by highlighting any areas of concern or making a complaint. The Trust will retain a record of your contact, which is held separately to any medical records. If you are acting on behalf of a patient, we may need to obtain the patient's consent in order to protect patient confidentiality. More information on PALS or making a complaint can be found on the Trust's website: www.mtw.nhs.uk or pick up a leaflet from main reception.

Issue date: November 2022

Database reference: RWF-OPLF-PPS82

Review date: November 2026

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