

## INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

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# Retinal angiography

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### What is retinal angiography?

This is a procedure in which a specially adapted camera takes photographs of your retina and choroid (back of the eye), after a dye is injected into a vein in your arm or hand.

### Why is it done?

The test allows doctors to see any abnormal blood vessels which could be causing your eye problems.

It allows them to:

- Help diagnose your condition.
- Guide any necessary laser surgery with precise accuracy.
- Monitor the effects of laser surgery.
- Follow the course of your condition.

### What sort of dye is used?

Fluorescein is the most frequently used dye in angiography. It is a deep orange vegetable dye and has been in use for several decades to show retinal circulation. It has been proved safe to use in young and older patients.

The dye is neutralised in your liver and removed via your kidneys. Your urine will be orange-green for up to 48 hours.

### Note for diabetic patients

The dye gives a false positive result for sugar in the urine test in diabetic patients.

You should not adjust your insulin or any of the diabetic treatment based on the urine test results for the first two days following angiography.

Please seek medical advice if you are concerned.

### What happens during the test?

Eye drops are used to enlarge your pupil. A cannula (a thin tube) is inserted into a vein in your arm, through which the dye is injected.

As you are seated in front of the camera, a bright light will be shining in to your eye.

As the dye goes in to your body, it takes a few seconds to reach the back of your eye. This is when the photographer will start to take photographs.

You can blink and breathe normally all of the time.

### **Are there any risks?**

Please let us know if you suffer from severe asthma or breathing difficulties, and if you have any allergies as the procedure may not be performed. Possible side-effects include nausea, vomiting, skin rash and itching.

A small number of people may experience more serious side-effects, including a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis), which may lead to collapse. This can be life threatening, but the risks are extremely small, calculated as 1 in 200,000. A doctor will be present in the clinic throughout the procedure.

### **What happens next?**

The dye will turn your skin slightly yellow for a few hours. You should try to stay out of the sun and wear dark glasses until your skin is back to its normal colour.

Please do not drive for the rest of the day or until your pupils have gone back to their normal size (sometimes after around three hours). Please arrange for someone to take you home.

Your results will be reviewed by the doctor during your next appointment at the hospital.

### **Contact details**

If you have any continuing problems either contact your doctor or telephone King's Mill Hospital on **01623 622515**, and ask to speak with the eye doctor on duty.

### **Further sources of information**

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)  
Our website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

### **Patient Experience Team (PET)**

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

**King's Mill Hospital:** 01623 672222

**Newark Hospital:** 01636 685692

**Email:** [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net)

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net).

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them.

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email [sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net) or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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