

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# FLUORESCEIN ANGIOGRAPHY



## **What is Fluorescein Angiography?**

This is a test in which we take pictures of the blood vessels at the back of the eye (the 'fundus') before and after fluorescein dye is injected into a vein in your arm. The results provide a record of the health of the back of the eye.

## **What do I need to bring with me?**

Please bring an up to date list of your medications and any medicines which you may require during your visit e.g. inhalers or GTN spray. After the test your pupils will be large and any sunshine may seem very bright, so you may wish to bring sunglasses. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE YOURSELF HOME** so please arrange for someone to drive you home in a car. Allow up to 2 hours for the test.

## **What happens on the day of the test?**

Before you arrive at the department please take meals and drinks as usual and ensure that you have taken all your medication.

However, do not use eye ointment on the day of the test until after the test has finished.

**PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU HAVE ANY ALLERGIES, SERIOUS ILLNESS OR IF YOU ARE PREGNANT.**

Drops will be put into both eyes to enlarge your pupils. Flash photographs will be taken of the back of your eyes. An injection of the dye will be given into a vein in your arm and more photographs taken as the dye highlights the blood supply at the back of your eyes. You will be given the results at a later date.

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

When the dye is given, some patients experience a "hot flush" sensation or nausea that passes very quickly (it lasts less than 1 minute). The flash from the camera may dazzle your vision for one or two minutes. Rarely, allergic reactions may occur, for example a skin reaction that can be treated with antihistamine tablets. Serious side-effects are very rare, but as a precaution we will ask you to remain in the eye department for about 15 minutes after the test.

The eye drops that are used to enlarge your pupils may blur your vision (mainly for close objects) for 3 - 4 hours. The dye may give your skin a yellow tinge and your urine will be bright yellow for 1 - 2 days. It is highly unlikely that you will experience any other problems after leaving the department, but in case of emergency contact your nearest Accident and Emergency Department or for non-emergency problems contact your GP.

## **Ophthalmology Department Telephone Numbers:**

Worcestershire Royal Hospital

01905 733569

Kidderminster Treatment Centre

01562 512382

Princess of Wales Community Hospital (POWCH)

01527 488198

## **Accident and Emergency Telephone Numbers:**

Worcestershire Royal Hospital

01905 760743

Alexandra Hospital, Redditch

01527 512116

**If your symptoms or condition worsens, or if you are concerned about anything, please call your GP, 111, or 999.**

### **Patient Experience**

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

### **Feedback**

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

### **How to contact PALS:**

**Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: [wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net)**

### **Opening times:**

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 4.30pm and Friday: 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that a voicemail service is in use at busy times, but messages will be returned as quickly as possible.

If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.