

Eye Unit: Retinal Services

Staurenghi Eye Angiography

Medical Retina Clinics

You have been referred for the above procedure to check the blood vessels at the back of your eyes.

What is eye angiography?

This is an investigation, which involves having your pupils dilated and having a dye injected into one of your veins through a cannula (needle that sits inside your vein); the cannula will be inserted either in the back of your hand or in the crease of the arm at the elbow. The dye is photographed using a special camera as it circulates around the blood vessels at the back of your eyes.

You will be asked to sit with your chin on a rest (as you would expect to do if you were having your eyes examined by a specialist eye doctor). Within a few moments of the dye being injected it will be possible to see the dye moving around the vessels at the back of your eye. You will be sitting in front of a special camera, which will take photographs as the dye circulates around these vessels.

What is Staurenghi angiography?

This is an eye angiography procedure that is carried out using a special wide field lens (the Staurenghi lens) which is inserted in between your eyelids. This lens allows the doctor to view and photograph most of the back of your eye. The lens may feel uncomfortable initially, but the procedure is not painful. A drop of



Patient Information

local anaesthetic will be put into the eye which is to be examined for the procedure. Some lubricating jelly will be put on the surface of the lens which comes into contact with your eye to allow the doctor to move the lens without it scratching the front of your eye. The Staurenghi lens will be held in place, whilst the images are taken of the back of your eyes. **This is a not a treatment.**

As the dye moves around the circulation, a special camera will be used to photograph the vessels at the back of the eyes. These tests are very useful for finding leaky or damaged vessels.

Why is it performed?

This procedure allows the doctor to identify areas of the eye that are not easily seen when performing a normal angiography procedure without the lens.

What are the risks involved?

This procedure is considered safe and is carried out routinely in the Eye Outpatients Department. However, there is the possibility that patients may have some reaction to the dye used.

Fluorescein (orange dye) is a synthetic dye and has few side effects.

It is important to tell the nurse if:

You are taking any medication. It will be useful if you bring a list of the medications that you usually take.

Patients who have allergies may experience the following during or after the procedure:

- Some patients can have a shock reaction to the dye, but this is extremely rare.
- There is a small chance that you may feel sick – this feeling should pass very quickly
- There is a very small chance that you may get an itchy rash
- You will experience a discolouration of the skin and urine for up to 48 hours. You should drink plenty of fluids to flush it

Patient Information

through your system and everything will return to normal quite quickly

- If the dye leaks into the surrounding tissues during the injection, it may cause discomfort for a number of days. Any permanent damage to the skin is extremely rare.

What happens when you arrive in the Department?

- Your vision will be checked;
- You will be asked about your general health and it will be helpful if you bring a **list** of your medications with you;
- You will be asked about allergies;
- Your blood pressure and pulse will be checked;
- You will be asked to sign a consent form to say that you understand the procedure and that you wish to have the procedure done;
- Drops to dilate the pupils will then be put in your eyes;
- A cannula (a needle that sits inside one of your veins) will be inserted into the back of your hand or in the main vein in your arm to have the dye injected;
- Once your pupils are dilated you will have some photographs taken and then you will be sat in front of a special camera where the procedure will take place;
- The photographer will tell you where to look when he/she is taking the photographs;
- You will hear the photographer and nurse count down before the dye is injected;
- It takes very little time before the dye reaches the vessels at the back of your eyes;
- Once the procedure is over the cannula will be removed;
- It is advisable to bring some sunglasses to wear when you leave the Department.

Please note that you will not be able to drive following this procedure because your vision will be blurred.

How long does the procedure take?

The procedure usually takes no more than two hours and you may be asked to see wait and see the consultant the same day for the results, or a separate appointment will be made for the results.

You are advised to eat and drink normally prior to having the procedure. Please take your medication as prescribed unless you are told not to.

If you have any concerns about the procedure or you would like someone to go over the contents of this leaflet, please call the Eye Department and ask to speak to a Retinal Nurse. Telephone 024 7696 4000 and ask the switchboard for Bleep 2828 and stay on the phone till you are connected.

Useful contact number

UHCW Eye Casualty Tel 024 7696 6627

Open from:

Monday to Thursday	08.30am – 4.30pm
Friday	08.30am – 4.00pm
Saturday	08.30am – 12.00pm

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6474 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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