Fluorescein Angiography (IVF)

Register using a self check-in kiosk in the main entrance of the Centennial or Dickson Buildings, Victoria General site.

Next, go to the Eye Care Centre in the Centennial Building, 2A and check in at the reception desk.
Fluorescein Angiography (IVF)

The retina covers the back inside wall of the eye. When light hits the retina, an image is formed. Messages about this image are sent to the brain and vision takes place.

A healthy retina is needed for good vision. Intravenous fluorescein angiography (IVF) gives pictures of the blood vessels in the retina. These pictures are used to help in diagnosis and treatment, and for comparison with future exams.
Getting ready for the test

• Tell your doctor if you have asthma, are allergic to dyes, or if there is any chance that you may be pregnant. It is very important for your doctor to know about these things.

• A small percentage of people may be allergic to the dye.

• Plan to be at the Centre for about 2 hours.

• Bring a list of your medications and allergies with you.

• You may wish to bring sunglasses to wear after your test is finished.

• If you wear contact lenses, you may be asked not to wear them on the day of the test.

• Eat your meals as usual.

• You will be asked to sign a consent form.

• Your pupils will be dilated (made bigger) with eye drops.
• Some people will need only 1 set of drops, but others may need 2 sets. It usually takes 20-40 minutes for your pupils to get big enough so the pictures can be taken.

How is the test done?
• You will be asked to place your chin and forehead against a chinrest.
• You will be asked to look at a target with one eye while the other eye is photographed.
• Regular pictures are taken of each eye.
• With your eyes wide open, a flash will go off. Try not to blink until after the flash.
• A yellow dye will be injected into a vein in your arm. The dye travels throughout the body, including the eyes. The photographer uses a special camera and a flash to take a series of pictures of the retina as the dye passes through your blood vessels. The dye part of the test takes about 5 minutes.
After the test

• You will be asked to wait for 30 minutes after the injection. This is to make sure you are not reacting to the dye. A nurse will assess you before you leave the Centre.

• The eyes are very sensitive to light when the pupils are dilated. We suggest that you wear sunglasses, especially on a sunny day.

• The dilating drops may blur your vision. Do not drive until your vision clears. You must have someone come with you to the Clinic for the test and to drive you home after.

• Because the dye is a yellow colour, your skin and urine (pee) will be yellow for about 24 hours.

• If you are having X-rays, scans, or blood tests on the same day as your IVF test, make sure to tell any health care providers you had an IVF test that day.