

# Fluorescein Angiography

Fluorescein angiography is an imaging test to view the blood vessels in your retina (back layer of the eye). The retina is the layer of the eye tissue that sends visual information to your brain. Fluorescein angiography is a test to take pictures of the layer of tissue in the back of your retina. During the test, you will be given eye drops that dilate (widen) your pupils. A nurse will give you fluorescein dye mixed with something sweet to drink. This fluorescent dye travels to the blood vessels in your eye and will highlight the blood vessels and allow your doctor to see them clearly so they check on the health of your retina and optic nerve and can look for conditions that might impact your vision.

### How do I prepare for this test?

- You will need to arrange for transportation to and from the test. Dilating your pupils can affect your vision for up to 12 hours, so you will not be able to drive yourself home.
- You may need to stop taking certain medications temporarily.
- Tell us if you have any allergies, especially to iodine. Also, let us know if you are pregnant or think you could be.

### What to expect during the test?

- On the day of the test, remove contact lenses if you wear them. During the test, the following will occur:
  - You will be given eye drops to dilate your pupils
  - Images of your eye will be taken with a machine
  - You will be instructed to take fluorescein by mouth
  - Another set of images of your eye will be taken with a machine

### What to expect after the test?

- You can return home the same day.
- It's common to have increased sensitivity to light. You will need to wear sunglasses until the sensitivity goes away.
- It's common to have blurred vision. You will need someone to drive you home and may need to take the day of school to allow your pupils to return to their normal size.
- Wait at least 1 hour prior to replacing contacts lenses. The dye will cause them to discolor.
- Drink a lot of fluids. This helps to flush the dye out of your system.

### What are the side effects?

- Side effects are common and may include:
  - Dark or tinted vision for several minutes
  - Skin that appears slightly yellow for up to several hours
  - Urine that appears dark yellow or orange for 24 to 36 hours

**Please send us a message in MyChart or call 858.309.7702 with any symptom related concerns, or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**

- Change in eyesight, eye pain or bad eye irritation
- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face lips, tongue, or throat.