

Test/Fluorescein Eye Angiograph (Clinic 10)

The ophthalmologist (eye doctor) has recommended that you have a test called a fluorescein eye angiography. Here is some information to help you understand what to expect before, during, and after the test.

What to know about the test

A fluorescein eye angiography is a test that helps the doctor diagnosis or monitor problems with your eye.

The test involves taking pictures of the blood vessels in your eye with the help of a special dye. This dye is called contrast. Contrast helps the blood vessels show up better in the pictures. The test lets your doctor see the blood vessels in your eye and how blood flows to two parts of your eyes:

- The choroid (the middle layer of the eye).
- The retina (the back of the eye).

The test usually takes about 2 hours.

What to expect before the test

What to do:

- You may eat and drink fluids before the test unless your doctor tells you not to.
- If you wear contacts, take them out before the test.
- Make a plan have someone drive you home after. Your vision may be blurred for about 12 hours after the test so you may not be able to drive.

Let your doctor know if you:

- Might be pregnant or are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Have ever had a bad reaction to contrast.
- Have an allergy to iodine, penicillin, or sulfa drugs.
- Feel dizzy or lightheaded when you get blood drawn.

What to expect during the test

- The doctor or nurse will explain the test to you and ask you to sign a consent form if you agree to have the test and understand the reasons for having it.

- The doctor and nurse will ask you some general questions about your health.
- The nurse or technician will put drops in your eyes to dilate (enlarge) your pupils.
- The nurse will insert an IV (intravenous) catheter (small tube) into a vein in your arm.
 - You may feel some pain when the catheter is inserted.
- The nurse will inject contrast into the IV catheter. The contrast travels up to your eye within a few seconds and “lights up” the blood vessels for the camera.
 - You may feel some pain if any contrast leaks out of the catheter and into your vein.
- The camera technician will take several pictures as the contrast passes through the blood vessels of your eye.
- After the test is done, the nurse will remove the IV catheter.
- The nurse will stay with you for a brief period of time after the test to make sure you are OK.
- The doctor will talk with you about your results after the test.

Know what to expect after the test

What to do:

- Drink plenty of water and other fluids for 36 hours after the test to flush the contrast out of your body.
- You can resume your normal activities once the test is done.

It’s normal to have:

- Some pain when the catheter is inserted.
- Burning where the catheter is inserted.
- Mild nausea.
- Vomiting.
- A feeling of warmth.
- A headache.
- A metallic taste after the contrast is injected.
- A yellow color to the skin for about 12 hours after the test.
- A bright yellow color to the urine for up to 36 hours after the test.

Call the doctor or nurse if:

- You itch or have hives.
- You start sneezing.

- Your heart feels like it's beating fast or racing.
- Your face or hands begin to swell.
- You feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- You notice these changes where the catheter was:
 - Pain.
 - Redness.

If you have any questions or problems:

Call the clinic at 301-496-5847 during clinic hours.

Call the clinic after hours or on the weekend at 301-496-1211 and ask to have the ophthalmology fellow on call paged.

Call 911 right away if you have:

- Swelling or tingling of your tongue.
- Difficulty breathing.

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

Products/resources named serve as examples and do not imply endorsement by NIH. The fact that a certain product/resource is not named does not imply that such product/resource is unsatisfactory.

National Institutes of Health Clinical Center
Bethesda, MD 20892
Questions about the Clinical Center?
<http://www.cc.nih.gov/comments.shtml>
9/14

