

Columbus Ophthalmology Associates
FLUORESCEIN ANGIOGRAPHY

What is fluorescein angiography?

Fluorescein angiography is a procedure used to take a series of photographs of the retina. The retina lies in the back of the eye like wallpaper lines the inside of a room. It acts much like the film of a camera. Delicate blood vessels on the retina can be damaged in certain diseases. These vessels may begin to leak fluid or blood and can scar the retina, leading to a reduction in vision.

Why perform a fluorescein angiography?

The fluorescein angiogram is a valuable test to determine the precise location of vessel damage. Diabetes, high blood pressure and age-related macular degeneration are some of the common conditions that cause damage to retinal blood vessels. Photographs obtained from a fluorescein angiography help guide surgeons in using lasers to treat these conditions.

What are the risks of fluorescein angiography?

When the fluorescein dye is injected into the body, a patient's skin can become yellow for a few days. Urine may become a dark orange for 24 hours after the test. Some patients have become slightly nauseated during the procedure. In rare cases, allergic reactions can occur and there may be a skin rash with significant itching. Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) are extremely rare, but can occur and can be life threatening.

Fluorescein angiography guides treatment

Once the fluorescein angiography has been completed, the images taken will be reviewed by the surgeon. The exact areas of leakage will be identified and laser treatment will be undertaken, if necessary.

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