Riverside Campus - Campus Riverside

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40, 41, 87, 97, 110 118, 144, 145 and 149





Care

Fluorescein Angiography

Everything we do is looked at from the patient's point of view.



The Ottawa | L'Hôpital Hospital d'Ottawa

Eye Care Centre Riverside Campus

P614 (REV 09-2006) CD11

FLUORESCEIN ANGIOGRAPHY

What is Fluorescein Angiography?

Fluorescein Angiography is a test that can identify retinal problems of the eye. A special type of camera is used to take pictures of your eye. You can expect to be at the clinic for at least an hour as it is necessary to put drops in your eyes to make your pupils large before the pictures can be taken. The test will take approximately 30 minutes.

About the Retina

The retina is a soft cup-shaped lining at the back of the eye. It is about the size of a postage stamp and about as thick as a dime. It is where the pictures you see are formed and sent to the brain.

Retinal problems are not uncommon, especially for people with diabetes and older adults. Fluorescein Angiography can help your doctor diagnosis and treat many retinal problems.

What to Expect

Be sure to eat before you come to the Clinic. You DO NOT need to fast for this test. Continue to take all of your regular medications.

The nurse will put drops in your eyes about fifteen minutes before the test is done. The drops will make your pupils large so that the blood vessels in the retina at the back of the eye can be photographed.

When your pupils are large, a special dye called Fluorescein is injected into a vein in your hand or arm. As the dye is injected you may feel warm and slightly nauseated. These feelings usually last only a few seconds. Tell the technician how you feel. When you are comfortable, the technician will take several pictures. These pictures will show your doctor the exact location of any problems in your retina.

After the Test

The Fluorescein dye used for the test is very safe. However, it may cause your skin and the white of your eyes to turn yellow for several hours. The yellow color disappears as your kidneys remove the dye. Because your kidneys remove the dye, your urine will turn dark orange. The dye will be completely removed from your body forty-eight hours after the test. Drink extra fluids, especially water, for 12 to 24 hours after the test to help remove the dye from your body. Your eyes will be very sensitive to light because your pupils are so large. Make sure you bring a pair of sunglasses with you.

Make arrangements for someone to drive you home after the test.