What is a Fluorescein Angiogram?

A Fluorescein Angiogram is a test done to study the retinal blood vessels and circulation in the eye. This test is performed by a specially trained photographer called a Certified Retinal Angiographer (CRA) and a medical eye doctor (Ophthalmologist). As part of this procedure, the doctor injects an organic dye (injectable liquid) into a vein in your arm. Then, the CRA takes pictures using a special computerized camera that shows any changes in the retina due to disease or aging. A Fluorescein Angiogram is a completely painless test.

Note: This test does not use x-ray technology. However, if you are pregnant, breast feeding or have had a previous allergic reaction to intravenous sodium fluorescein dye please be sure to tell the staff.

What Can I Expect While at California Pacific Medical Center?

Before the Test

- Call (415) 600-3937 to schedule an appointment.
- Go to the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center at 2100 Webster Street, Suite 219. Bring your insurance information with you to the appointment.

During the Fluorescein Angiogram Test

- You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the procedure you are having. This is a good time for you to ask questions and to share any concerns you may have.
- The CRA places drops in your eyes to dilate the pupils. It usually takes about 30 minutes for your pupils to dilate.
- The staff takes you into the photography suite and positions you in front of the camera.
- The doctor injects the contrast into your vein. You may feel a flushing/warm sensation.
During the Fluorescein Angiogram Test  

- Then, the CRA takes a series of pictures of your eye every 1, 3, 5 and 10 minutes after the contrast injection.
- You will see a bright light from the camera during picture taking. It is very important to hold still while the pictures are being taken.
- The final results of your test will be given to you by your doctor (Ophthalmologist) either at your follow-up visit or by telephone.

After the Test

- **You may not drive after this test.** Your eyes will remain dilated for 3-6 hours. Your vision will be temporarily blurred while dilated. You may wish to take a cab home or have a responsible adult drive you home after the test.
- Your urine will be bright yellow for up to 36 hours following the test.
- You may resume your normal activities 3-6 hours after the test when your eyes return to your normal vision.

More Ways to Learn

Go to [www.cpmc.org/learning](http://www.cpmc.org/learning) to find more learning resources at California Pacific Medical Center.

### Frequently Asked Questions

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>During this test a specially trained photographer, called a Certified Retinal Angiographer (CRA), takes a series of photos to study the blood vessels and circulation of the eye. True or False?</td>
<td>True. A Certified Retinal Angiographer (CRA) takes a series of photos to study the blood vessels and circulation of the eye.</td>
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<td>Is this test painful?</td>
<td>A Fluorescein Angiogram is a completely painless test.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I drive home after a Fluorescein Angiogram?</td>
<td>You may not drive home after this test. Your vision may be temporarily blurred while dilated.</td>
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