Fluorescein Angiography

Fluorescein angiography is a test that looks at blood flow in the retina. The test takes about 10-20 minutes. Trained eye photographers use a special camera to take pictures of your eye. This is not an x-ray.

A small amount of fluorescein dye is injected into your arm. This dye is orange and glows under green light. The dye moves through your body and reaches the blood vessels in your eye in about 10-20 seconds. The camera takes many pictures as the dye moves through the retinal blood vessels. These pictures show your doctor how blood flows in your eye.

Skin Changes
After the test is over, you will find that your urine has changed to a bright yellow color. Fair-skinned persons may notice a yellow to orange color of the skin. Both color changes will go away as the dye leaves your body. It often takes less than 24 hours. There is no pain with these changes.

Pain
You may have slight pain and bruising at the injection site, much like having blood drawn for lab tests. Rarely, you will have a burning feeling if the dye leaks out under the skin. If this happens, you will be given an ice pack until the pain goes away.

Symptoms
This test may feel tiring for some. The camera uses bright lights. You need to hold still with your chin on a rest.

You may havel nausea after the injection. This often lasts a few minutes early in the test. An allergic reaction can happen, such as hives, itching, or wheezing. If this happens, you will get treatment right away.

Pregnancy
If you are pregnant or nursing, you should avoid this dye.

When to Call
Please let your nurse or doctor know if you have any problems either during the injection or in the day or so after the procedure. Please call if you have any problems or questions.

If you have any problems breathing or a severe allergic reaction, call **911**.

Who to Call
If you have questions, please contact your provider through MyChart or call your provider listed in your After Visit Summary or After Hospital Care Plan. For a list of UW Health Clinics, please visit www.uwhealth.org/.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 6/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5261