

The fundus is the portion of the retina that can be examined through the pupil. Fluorescein Angiography (FA) involves taking a series of photographs of the fundus with the Zeiss Visucam, a digital camera specifically designed for this test. Before the FA, the pupils of the patient are dilated and color photographs of the retina are taken. A small amount of a fluorescein dye is injected by our nurse underneath the skin of the patient's forearm. After 15 minutes, the injection site is checked for signs of an allergic reaction. Only when it is ascertained that a patient is not allergic to the dye can the procedure be done.

The camera is switched to "black-and-white" mode. A small needle attached to a syringe filled with the dye is inserted into a hand vein. With the patient seated and positioned properly the camera is alternately directed to the right and left fundus under the supervision of our Retina Consultant. Photos are taken using a blue flash while the dye is injected. The dye circulates and reaches the eyes in a few seconds. The dye shines or fluoresces because of the blue flash. The fluorescence of the dye to blue light illuminates the path it takes around the retina. The retinal vasculature is revealed in great detail.

Unlike fundus cameras that use film, the Visucam stores images digitally and results are almost immediately available. No need to wait for film developing. Copies can be produced easily and digital images in an optical medium, like a CD, are given to the patient together with the printout and interpretation. The doctor can use these photos on our network to explain the results to the patient and relatives.

Because angiogram patterns of different eye diseases are known and have been very well studied, the FA has become an indispensable tool in the diagnosis of retinal lesions.

ANGIOGRAPHY PROCEDURE

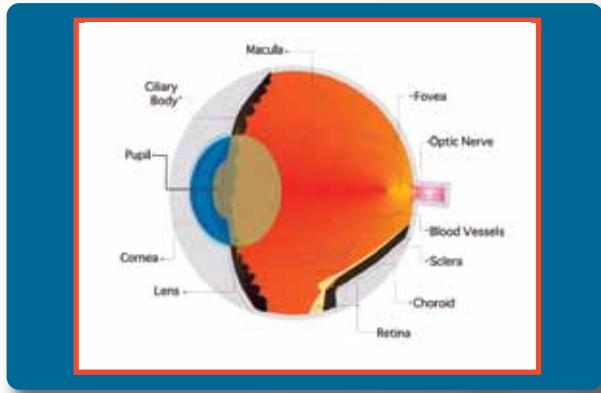


Usual Indications:

1. To determine presence and severity of Diabetic Retinopathy
2. For the diagnosis of Macular Diseases especially Macular Degeneration and Macular Edema
3. Detailed examination in Retinal Vascular Diseases such as Vein Occlusion or Hypertensive Retinopathy
4. To monitor the effects after Laser Treatment
5. As a diagnostic tool in unexplained blurring of vision

Steps in Brief:

1. Consent is obtained for the procedure.
2. Pupils are dilated with eye drops.
3. A small amount of the dye is injected under the skin of the forearm to test for any allergic reaction.
4. Color photos of the fundus are taken.
5. Fluorescein dye is injected into a vein of the hand.
6. Black and White photos are taken repeatedly in the next 20-30 minutes.
7. The results are printed and the interpretation is given.



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