Fluorescein Angiography (IVF)

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Capital Health, Nova Scotia
www.cdha.nshealth.ca

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Illustration by: Parlay International
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The information in this brochure is provided for information and education purposes only.
The information is not intended to be and does not constitute healthcare or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years.
Fluorescein Angiography (IVF)

The retina covers the back inside wall of the eye. When light hits the retina, an image is formed. Messages about this image are sent to the brain and vision occurs. A healthy retina is needed for good vision.

Intravenous fluorescein angiography gives photographs of the blood vessels in the retina. The photographs will be used to assist in diagnosis, treatment and for comparison with future examinations.

After the test

- You will be asked to wait for about 10 minutes after the injection. This is to make sure you are not reacting to the dye. A nurse will assess you before you leave the Centre.
- The eyes are very sensitive to light when the pupils are dilated. We suggest that you wear sunglasses, especially on a bright sunny day.
- The dilating drops may blur your vision. Do not drive your car until your vision clears. You may wish to have someone else drive you home.
- **Because the dye is a yellow colour, your skin and urine will be yellow for about 24 hours.**
- If you are having x-rays, scans or blood tests on the day of the IVF, be sure you tell the staff about this test.

Feel free to ask any questions. We are here to help you.
Getting ready for the test
• Tell your doctor if you have asthma, are allergic to dyes, or there is any chance that you may be pregnant. It is very important for your doctor to know about these.
• A small percentage of people may be allergic to the dye.
• Plan to be at the Centre for about 2 hours.
• Bring a list of your medications and allergies with you.
• Anyone wearing contact lenses may be asked not to insert them on the day of the test.
• Eat your meals as usual.
• Register at the reception desk in the Centre.
• You will be asked to sign a consent form.
• Your pupils will be dilated with eye drops. Some people will need only one set of drops, but others may need 2 sets. It will usually take from 20 - 40 minutes for a person’s pupils to become large enough so the photos can be taken.

How is the test done?
• You will be asked to place your chin and forehead against rests.
• You will be asked to look at a target with one eye while the other eye is photographed.
• Regular photographs are taken of each eye.
• With your eyes wide open, a flash will go off. Try not to blink until after the flash.
• A yellow dye will be injected into a vein in your arm. The dye travels throughout the body, including the eyes. The photographer uses a special camera and a flash to take a series of photographs of the retina as the dye passes through your blood vessels. The dye part of the test takes about 5 minutes.
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Normal Eye
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