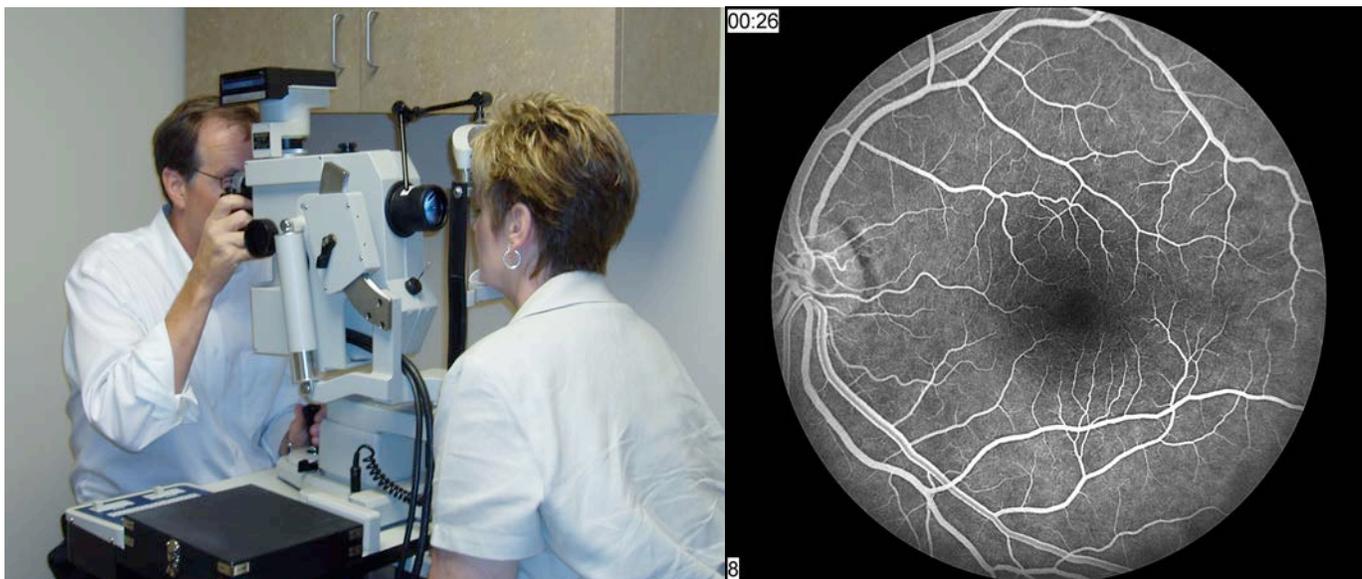




Fluorescein Angiography

What is fluorescein angiography?

This is a test used to study diseases of the retina, most commonly macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. It is done in the eye clinic with a camera, which photographs the eye. A dye called fluorescein is injected into a vein and then pictures are taken as the dye goes through the blood stream including the vessels supplying blood to the retina. The dye is not iodine dye used in X-rays and there is no X-ray exposure.



How is the test performed?

After you check in you will receive drops to dilate your pupil.

Dr. Beck will place a small temporary I.V. needle into a hand or arm vein to deliver the dye. This will be removed after about 5 minutes.

The camera will then take multiple pictures of the dye coursing through the retinal vessels to study a particular problem, help diagnose a disease, or decide if treatment is needed.

How long should I plan to be in the office?

About one hour.

Should I bring a driver?

As in most cases when you are dilated, we always feel it is safer for you to bring a driver with you. Most of the time you will not feel any different after the test, but lights or the sun will be bright because of the dilation and vision could be slightly blurred.

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Are there any side effects?

Everyone will notice a slight yellow discoloration of the skin, which may last 24 hours. Fluorescein, as it is excreted from the blood stream by your kidneys, will turn your urine a dark orange. The urine will gradually clear over the next 24-36 hours.

Allergic reactions to fluorescein dye are rare. Occasionally one will experience slight nausea shortly after the injection, but this usually passes quickly. More severe reactions may produce itching and rash requiring antihistamine treatment. As with any medication you take for the first time, life threatening anaphylactic shock can occur but is very very rare. Those allergic to radio-opaque dyes used in X-ray procedures are not necessarily allergic to fluorescein. In those allergic individuals, fluorescein angiography can usually be done safely.