

Diagnostic Tests

Digital ICG Angiography

As a supplement to fluorescein angiography, **Indocyanine Green (ICG) angiography** focuses on an important layer of blood vessels just beneath the retina called the choroid. ICG becomes particularly important when evaluating some forms of age-related macular degeneration. While choroidal vessels are essential to the normal functioning of the retina, these vessels can also become “feeder” vessels for the abnormal vessels which cause “wet” macular degeneration. We consider macular degeneration the “wet” type when a choroidal neovascular membrane is present beneath the retina.

With standard fluorescein angiography, areas of active disease in age-related macular degeneration are often poorly defined (occult) by traditional fluorescein angiography, making treatment more difficult. In some cases, ICG angiography allows us to detect retinal disease that was not previously detectable by fluorescein angiography. “Wet” macular degeneration may show up as “hot spots” or “feeder vessels” when viewed with ICG angiography.

ICG angiography has proven useful in guiding treatment of “wet” macular degeneration. Some patients that were not good candidates for treatment with laser may now be candidates for treatment following ICG angiography. In patients who are already candidates, ICG may help guide treatment by limiting the laser treatment area to only the diseased tissue, thereby sparing as much of the normal surrounding retina as possible.

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