

Ophthalmic Photographers' Society Standards of Practice

Standards of Practice serve as guidelines for the professional practitioner in a particular field. They help to establish safe, consistent norms and delineate standards of quality care. They also serve as a common base from which communication about a particular field can be launched.

PHASE I: SAFETY ISSUES

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OCULAR ANGIOGRAPHY

The following Safety Recommendations were adopted by the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society Board of Directors on February 6, 1999. Implementing these recommendations will help to create a safe environment for both ophthalmic photographers and their patients.

1. Personnel Issues

- Fluorescein and ICG angiography should be performed only when a licensed physician is immediately available.
- Fluorescein and ICG angiography should be performed by a qualified ophthalmic photographer. A Certified Retinal Angiographer (CRA) is recommended.
- The ophthalmic photographer should:
 - be CPR certified
 - have an emergency kit and oxygen available when performing ocular angiography
 - be familiar with the contents of the emergency kit. (see references)
- Sodium fluorescein or indocyanine green should be injected by an individual properly trained in IV injection technique, who is familiar with the side effects and reactions associated with the injection of sodium fluorescein or ICG and who, by current law in their state or locality, has the authority to perform IV injections.
- The ophthalmic photographer should consider their need for hepatitis vaccination and an annual TB titer.

2. Emergency Situations

- A written emergency plan should be available in each office performing fluorescein or ICG angiography.
- The angiography room should have a simple method that allows the photographer to quickly contact additional personnel should an emergency arise (examples: emergency call button, telephone with posted emergency number).
- All personnel involved in the procedure should know how to initiate emergency procedures.
- Photographers should be well educated on the potential side effects and reactions of short term IV infusion therapy.
- The patient should be appropriately informed of side effects and potential reactions before fluorescein or ICG angiography is undertaken. An informed consent, signed and dated by the patient, will document patient education efforts.
- The angiographer should be familiar with proper procedures for anticipating and treating simple diabetic reactions. Appropriate supplies should be available in the angiography room. (see references)

3. Physical Specifications

- The angiography room should be large enough to allow adequate floor space to recline the patient while allowing for passage into and out of the work area.
- The room for angiography should be equipped with a sink for hand washing. (an OSHA requirement)
- Injection supplies should be stored in a locked cabinet. (an OSHA requirement)
- Patient chairs or stools should be equipped with backs. Wheeled patient chairs or stools should be equipped with wheel locks.

- Each angiography room should be supplied with a telephone or emergency call button.
- Emesis basins or waste receptacles should be readily available during ocular angiography.

4. Safety guidelines

- The most current safety policies and procedures of the ophthalmic photographer's employer should be reviewed annually and implemented. (See your employer for this information)
- The most current federal Bloodborne Pathogen Standards should be reviewed annually and implemented.
- The most current federal Hazardous Material Standards should be reviewed annually and implemented.
- Proper disposal of used injection supplies is the responsibility of the individual performing the injection.

REFERENCES:

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- Olin BR. Drug Facts and Comparisons. St. Louis: *Facts and Comparisons*, 1998.
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- Saine PJ, Tyler ME. *Ophthalmic photography: a textbook of photography, angiography, and electronic imaging*. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann 1997.
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- Yannuzzi LA, Rohrer KT, Tindel LJ, Sobel RS, Costanza MA, Shields W, Zang E. Fluorescein angiography complication survey. *Ophthalmology*. 93(5):611-7, 1986 May.

RESOURCES:

Check with your institution's Pharmacy, Risk Manager, or Nursing Department for information on Emergency Medical Kits. If no information is available from those sources, consult the list of commercial resources below. This listing is not an advertisement nor endorsement for these specific companies. Neither the OPS, its Board of Directors, nor the authors of these standards have any financial interest in the companies listed below.

Healthfirst Corporation
22316 70th Avenue W, #A
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
1-800-331-1984

Affasco, Inc.
PO Box 1767
Carson City, NV 89702
800-441-6774

Submitted by the OPS Standards of Practice Committee:
(Alan Frohlichstein, Thomas Link, Lawrence Merin, Patrick Saine (chair), Jeffrey Sobel)