

Ophthalmic Images

Skin Discoloration After Iatrogenic Fluorescein Dosing Error

Pamela D. Moore, MD; Michele M. Burns, MD, MPH



A 10-month-old girl with incontinentia pigmenti presented for a fluorescein angiography ophthalmologic examination. Intravenous fluorescein administration causes immediate, temporary, mild-yellow skin discoloration. The child's care team noted more vibrant yellow skin



CME at jamacmelookup.com

coloration than expected on viewing the girl in the postanesthesia care unit (Figure, A). On investigation, the child had inadvertently received the entire fluorescein syringe (33.9 mg/kg, 300 mg), not the intended 7.7 mg/kg. She had diffusely neon-yellow skin with scleral icterus; no behavioral changes or vomiting were noted.

Approximately 35% to 40% of patients with incontinentia pigmenti have ocular abnormalities including proliferative retinopathy, microaneurysms, peripheral avascularity, and macular occlusive disease; thus, fluorescein angiography ophthalmologic examinations are recommended. To our knowledge, there are no published cases of dosing errors involving intravenous fluorescein administration. Adverse events at therapeutic dosing are usually mild, although rare cases of anaphylaxis, myocardial infarction, seizures, or death are reported. Ultimately, laboratory values showed no abnormalities, and her skin discoloration had nearly resolved after 8 hours (Figure, B).

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Author Affiliations: Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts (Moore); Emergency Medicine/Toxicology, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts (Burns).

Corresponding Author: Pamela D. Moore, MD, Boston Children's Hospital, 333 Longwood Ave, Mailbox 3025, Boston, MA 02115 (pmoore340@gmail.com).

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

Additional Contributions: We thank the patient's parent for granting permission to publish this information.