

CONTRAST REACTION INFORMATION

Objective: to provide information on possible reactions to MRI contrast (Gadolinium)

MRI Contrast Injection Patient Information

You will soon have an MRI scan. This involves placing you on a table that slides into a tunnel and uses a strong magnetic field to produce images of your body. Some medical conditions are most easily and accurately diagnosed if we give you an injection of “contrast material” into a vein in your arm during the MRI study.

The contrast material we use is a gadolinium-based material, which highlights abnormalities in tissues, making them easier for us to diagnose. Some kind of adverse reaction to MRI contrast material occurs in less than 1 of every 100 people who have the injection. In the vast majority of cases these reactions are minor, temporary, and need no treatment. The MRI contrast material we use has been given to millions of people worldwide for over 10 years.

Please tell us prior to your scan if you have:

- Asthma
- Allergies of any kind; especially to drugs, food, shellfish or previous reactions to MRI, CT or x-ray contrast material
- Allergies to Benadryl or Epinephrine

Most reactions to contrast usually occur immediately or within an hour of contrast injection. These reactions can be mild, moderate, or severe. Depending on the type of reaction, we may be required to administer epinephrine (“EpiPen”) or Benadryl.

Types of reactions:

- Mild non-allergic reaction
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Headache
 - Temporary “funny taste” in the mouth
- Mild allergic reactions
 - Generalized itchy rash or reddening of the skin.
- Moderate allergic reaction
 - Mild asthma type attack consisting of chest tightness and some difficulty breathing.
- Severe allergic reaction
 - Extreme shortness of breath
 - Swelling of the face or mouth

If you have concerns about any of the above information, please discuss it with us.

Edwards MRI: 970-477-7412

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