



Information for Patients

Iodinated Contrast Media

Your health care provider has requested that you have a computerized tomography (CT) scan with an injection of an iodinated contrast agent (X-ray dye). This injection of X-ray dye is quite common and is important, as it increases the amount of information that the Radiologist (X-ray doctor) may interpret from the scan, and therefore increases the probability of an accurate diagnosis.

The X-ray dye will be injected inside the exam/procedure room. This occurs anywhere from a few seconds to a few minutes before the scan. When the dye is injected it is common to have a warm sensation go through your body and many patients report a strange, metallic taste. These sensations generally only last a few moments and then pass.

The X-ray dye is very safe. There is however a risk of an allergic reaction to it. Reactions such as itchiness, rash or hives are the most commonly seen. These symptoms often pass without treatment but occasionally antihistamines are given. Severe reactions such as swelling/breathing problems are possible, but very rare.

If you have any concerns about the X-ray dye injection, please ask one of the staff in the CT Department.

For Patients with Diminished Kidney Function (Mild or Moderate)

When your test is finished, it is important to hydrate yourself (drink at least 1 Litre of water over the next 24 hours) if possible. The X-ray dye is excreted out of your body through your kidneys and drinking water will help this occur. If your kidney function is more severely impaired, you will receive hydration through an intravenous (IV) before leaving the hospital.