

UNDERSTANDING CONTRAST MEDIA



UNDERSTANDING CONTRAST MEDIA IN MEDICAL IMAGING

WHAT ARE CONTRAST MEDIA?

Contrast media are substances used during imaging tests to help highlight specific areas within your body. They can be valuable in some situations by helping to highlight some abnormalities. There are two common types of contrast media.

Iodinated Contrast:

Used in CT scans to make blood vessels and organs more visible.

Gadolinium-Based Contrast:

Used in MRI scans to enhance the detail of structures, such as the brain and soft tissues.

HOW IS CONTRAST MEDIA ADMINISTERED?

Contrast media are typically given through an injection into a vein. While the procedure is routine and safe, there may be some discomfort at the injection site, such as mild pain, swelling, or a sensation of warmth.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS AND POTENTIAL RISKS

Contrast media are generally safe for most patients. However, as with any medical procedures, there are common side effects and potential risks to be aware of before proceeding with an imaging test with contrast media.

Common side effects include having a general warm or flushing sensation, a metallic taste in the mouth, feeling cold at the injection site, and/or mild nausea or dizziness.

Some patients may have an allergic reaction to contrast media. Symptoms can include itchiness, hives, or sneezing.

Rarely, the injection site can become irritated, leading to redness or swelling. As with other injections, there is a small risk of injury to the injection site (such as involving nearby arteries, veins or nerves).

In exceedingly rare cases, a severe allergic reaction called anaphylaxis may occur. This allergic reaction is a medical emergency that can potentially be fatal.



SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

If you are breastfeeding, you may be advised to avoid nursing for 24 hours after the scan.

If you have any kidney issues, inform your doctor as there may be additional risks in proceeding with an imaging test with contrast media.

ENSURING YOUR SAFETY

Your healthcare team is trained to manage and mitigate these risks. If you have any known allergies, kidney problems, or if you're pregnant or breastfeeding, please discuss this with your doctor. It's important to weigh the benefits of having a clear diagnosis image against the potential risks, which your healthcare provider will help you to understand.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Your safety is our top priority. Always feel free to talk to your healthcare team about any concerns or questions you have. Contrast media can help to enhance the clarity of medical images, and the risks associated with their use are minimal for most patients. By informing your radiology team of your medical history, you can help ensure the safest possible experience.

CONTACT

TEL +65 6320 3633

FAX +65 6320 3364

imaging@damedsuites.com

28 Bideford Road #05-01 (S)229924

damedsuites.com