

MRI INTRAVENOUS CONTRAST CONSENT

Your doctor has referred you for a MRI Scan, which is an examination that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to produce images of internal body parts. A MRI scan is painless and does not use X-rays or ionizing radiation to produce images.

Your MRI test today is going to include an injection of the contrast agent gadolinium (gadopentetate dimeglumine) into your vein. This agent is a sterile, clear, colorless solution that will help enhance or "light up" certain normal and abnormal structures in the body. It not only makes the identification of abnormalities more accurate, but may also provide additional information that might otherwise have gone undetected. The majority of patients have no complaints or symptoms following an injection of MRI contrast.

The use of gadolinium has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and it is felt to be a safe contrast agent. Although rare, complications are possible whenever an injection is given and you have the right to be informed about the risks. You also have the right to refuse the injection of contrast and request the MRI be performed without the contrast. However, it is important to understand that the images will not be as detailed and may not be as helpful to the radiologist and your physician.

POTENTIAL RISKS

On occasion, an injection of MRI contrast can cause mild headaches, nausea, itching or other vague symptoms for a short time after the injection. Less frequently, allergic-type reactions such as hives, sneezing, shortness of breath and swelling of the eyes and lips have occurred. In rare instances, a few more serious reactions have been reported that include shock, kidney failure, cardiac arrest and death.

The safety of its use in children less than two years of age and pregnant women has not yet been determined.

Our staff is available to answer any questions you may have regarding the use of gadolinium.

It is important to inform the technologist if you have had a previous reaction to an injection of MRI contrast, if you have a history of asthma, allergies, anemia, sickle cell anemia or kidney disease or if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE INFORMATION. I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO GIVE MY CONSENT FOR THE MRI EXAMINATION USING GADOLINIUM.

Patient Signature

Date

Technologist Signature

Date



OPTIMAL IMAGING

St. Vincent's HealthCare

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