

NAVAL HOSPITAL LEMOORE
RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, CT SCAN
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**Important Patient Information about administering contrast media into the
body**

If, your examination requires intravenous iodinated contrast (“dye), ***please be advised of the following:***

Signs and Symptoms- Most people experience nothing, but some can feel a warm sensation (hot flashes) throughout their body and, others can have a metallic taste during the exam. These sensations are a normal reaction, and can come and resolve rather quickly. If you have any other reaction other than the ones described above, notify the technologist.

Contrast reaction –If you are getting a CT with iodinated contrast, there is a possibility you may have an allergic reaction. Mild reactions, can include, itching, hives or a rash. Some individuals can also develop trouble breathing and life threatening anaphylactic reactions. If you have a history of a contrast reaction, please inform the technologist immediately.

Infiltration of antecubital vein- The Radiology Department uses a high speed injector to infuse the contrast into the body. The technologist performing the Intravenous infusion will check to make sure you have a patent vein allowing contrast to fully infuse. This does not guarantee that the vein will not break during the injection. The injector pushes the contrast at a high rate of speed. Your vein may not handle the pressure and could cause an infiltration of contrast into the soft tissue around your vein. If you have an infiltration you may notice swelling in the arm and pain. If you experience pain or discomfort, immediately inform your technologist. The technologist will immediately stop the infusion of the contrast and access the infiltrate to determine if you need to be transferred to the Urgent Care Clinic for further evaluation and treatment.

Oral Contrast – If your CT exam is to rule out a perforation (tearing of digestive track) you will be administered gastrografin instead of readi-cat. Gastrografin is clear in color and is water soluble; your body can naturally absorb this contrast. Read-i-cat is not water soluble and may be retained within the system for a short period of time. It is very important you drink plenty water and increase fiber intake to aide the solution to pass quicker out of the body. Stools may be white in appearance, this is normal.

Infection - Your body can develop cellulitis, an infection from your Intravenous infusion site after several hours or days. Signs of infection include warmth, spreading redness, drainage of fluid, worsening pain and fever. If you develop and signs of infection contact the radiology department or doctor who will determine if you will require antibiotics for treatment.

For Diabetic patients – Glucophage should not to be taken for 48 hours after the exam, in which intravenous contrast is administered. You should contact your physician prior to restarting this medication.

Pregnancy – If you know or suspect that you are pregnant, do not have a CT exam until a pregnancy test has been performed. We can order a pregnancy test and have the results within several minutes.

Kindly let the Radiology Staff know if you have any questions.

Patient Name: _____

Appointment Date and Time: _____