

# CT and MRI scan – suspected post contrast media reaction

## Radiology Department Patient Information Leaflet

### Introduction

This leaflet is for people who have developed an allergic reaction following the injection of contrast media (sometimes called dye). It provides information about what has occurred, what actions have been taken and what to look out for when at home.

Patient label

Contrast media: .....

Date: .....

## What happened?

Like for all medications, on rare occasions, some patients have an allergic or sensitivity reaction to the contrast media that has been given. Mild symptoms are seen in up to one per cent of patients and severe symptoms are even more rare. For the majority of such patients, the reaction is mild and any symptoms (including flushing, nausea, itching, vomiting, headache and a mild rash / hives) will resolve quickly with little or no medical help. Almost all contrast reactions that are severe occur within 20 minutes of administration.

## Treatment

The radiology team have given you the recommended treatment for the type of reaction that you have experienced. A range of different actions or treatment may have taken place. This includes observing you for a period of time to ensure that your reaction is mild and that you do not need any further treatment. Alternatively, you may have been administered oral or intravenous medication to help relieve the symptoms of the suspected allergic reaction.

## What should I watch out for?

There is a possibility of delayed signs and symptoms following a suspected reaction. These reactions can occur between one hour to one week after the contrast administration. These are commonly non-severe skin symptoms such as a rash, hives and swelling.

If you have been issued with any medication after your reaction, it is important that you keep it with you and have it available. Please ensure that you have someone around to either check in on you or monitor you for the next 24 hours. This is because you may experience drowsiness depending on the type of medication given.

You will be contacted by a member of the radiology team in the next few days to find out how you are feeling.

If you start to feel worse or deteriorate, please ring either NHS 111, your GP or 999 as needed. Let them know what has occurred and what is happening and show them this leaflet.

## What should I do in the future?

If you are referred for any future examinations with contrast media / dye, it is important to tell your doctor and GP about your previous contrast reaction. This way, your clinical information can be updated to reflect what has happened. There is an approximate tenfold increase in reactions to contrast media following a previous reaction, so it is usual to avoid contrast media in the future.

If you attend any Radiology Department for any scans or procedures in the future, please let them know of your contrast allergy.

## Can I find out more?

For more information about this, you can look at the following links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/anaphylaxis/>

[https://www.mrisafety.com/SafetyInformation\\_view.php?editid1=245](https://www.mrisafety.com/SafetyInformation_view.php?editid1=245)

<https://radiopaedia.org/articles/iodinated-contrast-media-adverse-reactions>

<https://www.ranzcr.com/college/document-library/ranzcr-iodinated-contrast-guidelines>

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

The Radiology Department on 01384 456111 ext 4610 or 2106 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/radiology/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [dgft.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.patient.information@nhs.net)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

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此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta brosură poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru vă rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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