

Intravenous (IV) contrast information post CT scan

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This leaflet has been written for patients who have had an intravenous injection (IV) of **contrast media**. This is to explain any possible after-effects and what to do about them.

You will have had this injection into a vein in your hand or arm for a computerised tomography (CT) planning scan. The scan is used to plan your radiotherapy treatment.

All the preliminary **contrast media** information will have been given to you prior to your CT scan.

What is contrast media?

Contrast media is also commonly described as 'x-ray dye' or '**contrast**'. The **contrast** allows organs and blood vessels inside the body to be seen more clearly on your scan.

This is to give additional information to the radiotherapy consultant when planning your radiotherapy treatment.

The **contrast** is iodine based and is a colourless liquid which will pass through the bloodstream. It will be passed out in your urine when you go to the toilet. It does not change the colour of your urine.

What are the possible after-effects from receiving an injection of contrast?

Using **contrast** does not normally cause any problems for patients. However, if a reaction was to occur it would usually happen within the first 5 to 10 minutes.

The department is equipped to deal with any reactions.

What happens after the scan?

The radiographers will have already mentioned to you about remaining in the department for approximately 15 to 30 minutes after your **contrast** scan.

This is to make sure that there are no immediate after-effects. You can go home soon after this wait time.

There is no reason why you cannot drive home afterwards and resume normal activities. You can eat and drink normally.

We advise you to slightly increase your fluid intake for a couple of days after your **contrast** scan. This will help eliminate the **contrast** from your body.

Possible adverse delayed reactions

Possible adverse delayed reactions to **contrast** can occur several hours or up to a few days after the scan but are rare. Possible adverse delayed reactions include:

- mild skin rash/hives
- headache
- nausea
- vomiting
- dizziness
- pain in the injected arm

These reactions disappear within a few hours and little or no treatment is required.

Is there anything I need to look out for?

Although rare, if you notice any changes at the injection site up to seven days after your **contrast** scan such as:

- pain
- redness
- discomfort
- swelling

You should get the injection site checked by your doctor or practice nurse.

If you start to feel unwell, or notice anything wrong up to seven days after your **contrast** planning scan then you should do one of the following:

- Contact your doctor or practice nurse
- Phone NHS 111
- Access 111.nhs.uk online and tell them that you have had an intravenous contrast CT scan.

If you are advised to see a doctor or nurse then take this information sheet with you. It shows which **contrast** was given and how much was administered to you.

IV contrast administered (please circle relevant):

Omnipaque 300

Visipaque 320

Niopam 300

.....millilitres

Date:

The staff in the oncology centre are here to help you. If you have any problems or worries, please seek our help and advice. Telephone numbers as below.

Useful numbers

Radiotherapy (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm)
Tel: 01522 572266

Out of hours/Bank holidays
Your GP surgery or NHS 111

Helpful websites

Lincolnshire Oncology Centre
www.ulh.nhs.uk/services/cancer-services/

Macmillan Cancer Support www.macmillan.org.uk/

Cancer Research UK www.cancerresearchuk.org

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www.accessable.co.uk/united-lincolnshire-hospitals-nhs-trust

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