

CT scan simulation with x-ray dye

Your doctor needs to plan your radiation treatments. To do this you need to have a CT scan with x-ray dye. Using dye with the CT scan provides better pictures and more information to plan your treatment. The dye is injected into a vein through an IV (intravenous line). The dye is often called contrast, or contrast media.

Like all medical procedures, there is some risk to having this type of CT scan. Your doctor has considered the risks before recommending it and believes that the benefits far outweigh the risks involved. Most people have this type of CT scan without any problems.

Before your CT scan

Please let us know if:

- you have diabetes, poor kidneys, take Metformin or Glucophage
- you think you are pregnant, or are breast feeding
- you have any other serious illness
- you have had a previous reaction to dye or have needed pre-medications before a scan in the past

What you may feel

After the dye is injected into your vein, you may have feelings of warmth, altered or funny taste, nausea or anxiety. These feelings are common and usually pass without treatment.

Possible allergic reactions

Mild allergic reactions to the dye can happen in about 1% to 3% of patients (about 1 to 3 patients out of 100). These patients may have itching, sneezing or hives (rash). Less common minor reactions include slight wheezing and slight swelling of the eyes.

Rarely, more severe allergic reactions can happen, such as a drop in blood pressure, shortness of breath, seizures, kidney damage and in extremely rare instances even death.

Certain conditions may make you more at risk to an allergic reaction to the dye. For this reason we will ask you to answer some questions about your health the day of the CT scan.

Getting the IV

With your IV, there is a small risk of infection at the area where the needle is placed. You may have a small amount of pain or bruising. The IV will be removed after the CT scan is done.

Drinking fluids

- ✓ Drink plenty of fluids before and after your scan to help flush the dye from your system.

Questions and concerns

You have the right to refuse the injection of dye and/or planning CT scan at any time during the procedure.

If you have any questions or concerns please discuss them with your doctor or radiation therapist before the CT scan.