



University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Department of Radiology

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INFORMATION FOR CONTRAST MEDIA INJECTIONS

Your physician has referred you (or your family member) to the Department of Radiology for an X-ray examination requiring an injection of a contrast material, a solution that permits the visualization of a blood vessel or body organ. An injection of a solution will be made into one of your veins. Soon after the injection is made, you may experience a warm sensation or hot flash and a strange taste in your mouth caused by the injection -- both of which will fade away and not recur.

Most patients experience no unusual effects from this injection. As with any procedure; however, a few risks are involved. During this injection, as previously stated, you may experience a warm sensation, nausea, or vomiting. A few patients have an allergic-type reaction, with itching and hives (raised skin reactions resembling mosquito bites), swelling of the eyes and lips, sneezing, or difficulty in breathing. Medications are on hand to treat these conditions, should they occur.

More serious reactions occur infrequently, and while it would be impractical or misleading to describe them all, these complications include shock, kidney failure, and cardiac arrest. We have facilities to treat these reactions immediately. The risk of fatal complications is exceedingly rare (less than 1 in 100,000) and in your situation the benefit of contrast administration far outweighs these risks as determined by your doctor.

Your radiologist will be happy to answer any specific questions you may have about the procedure, either before or at the time of the study.