

Iodinated contrast media are commonly used in radiological investigations. They are generally safe although adverse reactions are occasionally encountered following contrast medium injection.

## MILD REACTIONS

Mild reactions are self-limited and usually no medical management is required. These mild reactions include limited urticaria / itchiness, nausea, vomiting, sneezing, coughing, feeling of warmth, conjunctivitis, rhinorrhea, etc.

## MODERATE REACTIONS

Moderate reactions are more pronounced and medical management is commonly required. Some of these reactions can potentially progress to severe reactions if not treated. These moderate reactions include diffuse urticaria / itchiness, facial oedema, throat tightness or hoarseness without short of breath, mild wheezing, chest pain, abnormal blood pressure, etc.

## SEVERE REACTIONS

Severe reactions are often life-threatening and can result in permanent morbidity or death if not promptly treated. These severe reactions include difficulty in breathing caused by diffuse, facial or laryngeal oedema, and bronchospasm; severe hypotension or hypertension, irregular heartbeats, convulsions, etc.

Overall acute adverse reaction rate has been reported as 0.7% while incidence of serious acute reactions has been reported as four in 10,000. Death related to administration of intravascular iodinated contrast media has been reported as 2.1 fatalities in a million studies. Nearly all life-threatening contrast reactions occur within the first 20 minutes after contrast medium injection.

## DELAYED ADVERSE REACTIONS

Delayed adverse reactions may occur from one hour to up to one week following contrast medium injection. These are commonly skin reactions and include urticaria, rash and itchiness. Rare delayed reactions include iodide “mumps” and acute joint pain.

## CONTRAST EXTRAVASATION

Extravasation of contrast media is a potential complication that has an overall incidence of less than 1% and is due to leakage of contrast media to soft tissue adjacent to the injection site. Extravasation of small amount of contrast media may result in swelling and/or pain, and is commonly self-limited. More severe injuries may result in skin ulceration, tissue necrosis and compartment syndromes.

## LACTIC ACIDOSIS

Diabetic patients taking Metformin have the potential risk of developing lactic acidosis following contrast medium injection, in particular in patients with impaired renal functions. Reported incidence is less than 8.4 cases per 100,000 patient years. Patient mortality in reported cases is about 50%.

**Please inform our staff before the examination if you think you are or may be pregnant.**

**For further information, you can contact our Nurse, Radiation Therapist or Oncologist.**

*\* The above information refers from GRT0-167-R2 Consent for Intravascular Contrast Computerized Tomography.*