



## Introduction

This is an X-ray investigation which requires contrast medium injection. However, side effects may occasionally occur. Generally speaking, the contrast medium used is a safe drug. Doctor believes this test will provide information which should help to better understand and treat the medical problem. The investigation is therefore considered necessary.

## Risk and Complication

1. Allergic reaction to intravenous contrast medium.
  - Mild reactions: For example, itching, mild skin rash, nausea, vomiting, feeling of warmth, arm pain, sneezing, coughing, etc. These reactions are only temporary and require no treatment.
  - Moderate reactions: These are more serious and prolonged. Examples are severe skin rash, fever, chills, palpitation, high or low blood pressure, etc. These reactions usually need medical treatment.
  - Severe reactions: These usually require immediate medical treatment and can even cause harm. For example, shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, chest pain, convulsions, kidney failure, unconsciousness, etc.
  - Death: On rare occasion, contrast medium like many other drugs can cause death. The chance of this fatal occurrence resulting from the injection of non-ionic contrast medium is about 1 in 250,000.
  - Delayed reactions: Some patients may experience delayed reaction within 24 hours. The symptoms include 'flu' like illness, arm pain, itching, rash, painful or swollen salivary glands, etc.
2. Pain at injection site during injection of intravenous contrast medium. Contrast medium may accidentally leaks out from the injection site into the soft tissue. Discomfort, swelling or pain may result. Generally, this should disappear within one or two days. Rarely, local skin necrosis has been known to occur as a late complication.
3. Aspiration of gastric content or oral contrast medium may lead to pneumonia.

## Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

## Reference

Smart Patient Website by Hospital Authority: Information to Patients Concerning Intravascular Contrast Medium (2004)