



Introduction

This is an X-ray special investigation which requires contrast medium injection. Compare with a plain study, adding contrast medium can make the image clearer so that it is easier for the doctor to locate the abnormality, if any. 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

In general, contrast medium is a safe drug. However, side effects may occasionally occur.

1. General Risks:

➤ Mild reactions:

For example, itching, mild skin rash, nausea, vomiting, feeling of warmth, arm pain, sneezing, coughing, and chest tightness. A few patients may experience delayed reactions usually within 24 hours, which include pain at injection site, itching, rash, painful or swollen salivary glands. The symptoms are usually transient, requiring minimal or no treatment.

➤ Moderate reactions:

These symptoms are more severe and last for longer duration. Patient may also experience rash or urticaria, fever and chills, an increase or decrease in blood pressure and palpitation. Specific treatment and close monitoring are required.

➤ Severe reactions:

The symptoms include shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, chest pain, severe kidney failure, convulsion and unconsciousness. If these symptoms occur, the patient will require urgent medical treatment.

2. Special Risks:

➤ Contrast extravasation:

During intravenous contrast injection, contrast extravasation may occur. The patient will feel discomfort or pain at the injection site.

➤ Aspiration of gastric content or oral contrast medium may lead to pneumonia.

➤ Death:

Contrast medium may cause death by causing severe allergic reaction, but it is extremely rare.

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: Contrast Study of Computer-Assisted Tomography Scan (v2/2020)