

BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Intravascular (IV) Contrast Education

Your doctor has decided that you should have a test with **Intravascular (IV) contrast**, also known as “dye”. Contrast improves the picture of organs, blood vessels and tissue in your body. After the test or procedure the contrast is cleaned from your blood through your kidneys. Contrast can damage your kidneys. Multiple tests or procedures using contrast within a short timeframe can increase this risk. Please tell your doctor if you have had a test with contrast within the past 30 days.

Before your test/procedure

You will need to have a blood test that checks how well your kidneys are working. This will help your doctor to decide if you need medicine and/or IV fluids before the test or procedure. If you have any questions or concerns, call your doctor(s) office.

Day of Test/Procedure

A needle will be placed into one of your blood vessels to get contrast into your blood. As the contrast goes in you may feel warm and flushed or may feel like you need to urinate. You may also have a metallic taste in your mouth. These feelings are normal.

Please tell the staff at any point during your stay if you feel any of the following: Shortness of breath, swelling of the eyes, itching, and hives. You may need additional treatment if any of these happen. Sometimes the contrast may leak into your skin. If this happens, it may cause damage to your skin. In rare cases, this may need skin repair. Rarely (less than 1 in 100,000), side effects can lead to death.

After the Test/Procedure

You should drink at least an extra 24 ounces (3 glasses) of water within 6 hours of the test or procedure. This will help to clean the contrast from your blood. If the contrast is not cleaned from your body, damage to your kidneys may occur.

Kidney Disease

If you have diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or if your kidney function is not normal you may need to have a blood test 48 -72 hours after the test/procedure to check how well your kidneys are working.

Diabetes Medicine

If you take medicine by mouth for diabetes which has metformin in it (such as Metformin, Glucophage, Riomet, Fortamet, or Glucovance) you should stop taking this medicine after your test or procedure.

Within 48-72 hours after the test or procedure you will need to have a blood test. This will help your doctor decide when you should start taking your medicine again.

Delayed Reaction

Some patients may have a late reaction to the contrast.

Please call your doctor right away or go to the emergency room if any of the below occur:

- Trouble breathing
 - Any other sudden change of concern to you
 - Unusual or unexpected stomach pain, weakness/tiredness, and muscle pain
- Have not urinated for 24 hours
Hives, dizziness or lightheadedness

Needle Site

The contrast requires a break through your skin. Proper steps are taken to avoid infection, an infection at the site can happen. Please call your doctor if:

- The site becomes red, painful, or hot to the touch.
- A lump that was not there when you finished your scan but one develops at the site
- A small lump that was there when you finished your scan becomes bigger over time.