

CT Contrast Media Allergies: What You Need to Know



What is Contrast Media (CM)

CM makes CT images clearer and helps distinguish normal from abnormal body parts. It is not radioactive and leaves the body through your kidneys.

Allergic reactions to CM occur in less than 1% of patients and are mostly mild. Incidence of major life threatening reaction is rare at 0.04%.

Who Is at Higher Risk of CM Allergy?

- Previous allergy to CT contrast media
- Asthma
- Allergies to four or more drug classes



Please notify the medical staff if you have any of these risk factors or concerns.



Common Misconception

Not all symptoms are due to allergy.

Examples of non-allergic reactions include nausea, warm flushing sensation, headache, itch and metallic taste.

Signs of Contrast Media Allergies

Immediate Reactions

(within 30 mins after CM injection)



These range from **facial swelling, rash, throat tightness to breathing difficulty.**

Delayed Reactions

(up to one week after CM injection)



These are typically **skin reactions**, with **rash** being the most common.

If you experience any of the above symptoms, please alert the medical staff immediately.

Information taken from:
ACR Committee on Drugs and Contrast Media. ACR Manual on Contrast Media. American College of Radiology (2025). Available at: <https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/Contrast-Manual>



Scan the QR Code with your smart phone to access the information online or visit <https://nhghealth.com.sg>

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