

Venous Contrast Material:

Iodine-containing contrast materials:

These are administered for **computed tomography, phlebography** (imaging of the leg and arm veins) and **i.v. pyelography** (imaging of the kidneys and the urinary tract)

Gadolinium-containing contrast materials:

These are used for **magnetic resonance imaging**.

Possible side effects and complications:

- Reddening or small hematomas at the injection site are non-specific and usually insignificant.
- In very rare cases the vein may burst during the injection or the cannula may be incorrectly positioned. In this case, contrast material may seep into the tissue. This is immediately felt as a painful sensation. Please report this immediately even if the imaging procedure is in progress, so that the injection can be stopped immediately.
The contrast material that flows into the tissue is excreted through the lymph tract.
No serious after effects can be expected.
- In principle, hypersensitivity reactions (allergies) to the contrast material (carrier substance or iodine) may occur. These are largely limited to skin rashes which pass quickly.
- Sometimes you may experience an irritation in the throat; sensitive persons may also experience shortness of breath in rare cases.
- During the examination please immediately report any complaints that you consider unusual. The doctor in charge will be consulted immediately.
- Serious incidents, and even allergic shocks or cardiovascular arrest are possible - as is true for nearly all medications. However, such events have been reported extremely rarely for several million administrations of contrast material.
- A doctor is on-site for immediate consultation if such a reaction occurs.
- Only for iodine-containing contrast materials:
A sensation of warmth in the body and a bitter taste in the mouth are common, harmless, and pass away soon.
- Only for gadolinium-containing contrast materials:
In rare cases, following intravenous administration of MR contrast media in patients with impaired kidney function, there may be a delayed systemic connective tissue reaction (nephrogenic systemic fibrosis). If you are known to suffer from impaired kidney function (or if such a condition is suspected to exist), please inform the doctor or assistant before the MR examination.

In view of its benefits, contrast material may be regarded as a safe medication. However, its use may be subject to limitations in some persons.

In order to make it safe for you to receive contrast material you are requested to answer the following questions (on the back of the Patient Information and Consent Form).

Of course you have the right to refuse contrast material without stating any reasons. If you wish, your doctor will inform you about any disadvantageous aspects of your decision.