



Patient Information Sheet about Gadolinium Based Contrast Agents

You have been asked to undergo a MRI exam. During this exam, you may be given a gadolinium based contrast agent (GBCA) through your IV. IV administration of the GBCA may in some cases make it easier for us to find certain diagnoses and health conditions earlier and/or more accurately than a MRI study without using a GBCA. GBCA have been in clinical use in the USA for 30 years. Hundreds of millions of doses of GBCA have been given to patients throughout the world since these GBCA were first developed and approved for human diagnostic use in 1988 in the USA.

A tiny amount of the gadolinium within the GBCA that we administer to those who need it has been found to stay in several parts of the body for months or years. The long-term possible effects of this have not yet been determined, but to date all studies of the issue have found no harmful effects from this retention.

There are different types/brands of GBCA that can be used for your MRI exam. The amount of gadolinium that stays in the human body and the form or chemical structure of the gadolinium that stays in the body differs among the available GBCA. Some of the available GBCA seem to leave less gadolinium in the body less than do others. Some of the available GBCA may leave more gadolinium in the body than do others, but they may also be able to find smaller and/or earlier abnormalities than other GBCA at the same given dose or may have other safety advantages. The GBCA that seem to leave more gadolinium in the body than do others and which have no clear significant diagnostic or safety advantages are not used in this facility.

Not all MRI studies need to use a GBCA. If your MRI study does need to use one of these agents, a doctor who is specially trained in the safety of these GBCA has reviewed your medical history and important records, has decided that your MRI study needs one of these agents, and has selected the agent and dose that is right for your MRI study.

FDA still concludes that the benefits of GBCA still outweigh the risks. Should you have any questions about any of the above please ask a MDR staff member.