

Document Title	Contrast Injection Pre-Medication Protocol	Version	2
Document Type	Protocol or Guideline	Status	Published
Functional Area (category)	Imaging	Origination date	04/01/2008
Agency/Standard #	N/A	Last review date	Not Set
Content Expert/Owner	Lindsay Johnson (G299 Manager, Imaging), MRI Coordinator	Last modified date	02/12/2021
Required approvals	Imaging Medical Director MEC (02/2021)	Expiration date	02/12/2021

Contrast Injection Pre-Medication Protocol

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PURPOSE:

To establish a protocol for pre-medicating patients for contrast injection for patient's that have a known allergy to contrast.

POLICY:

- A. If a patient has had a previous reaction to IV contrast and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

Methylprednisolone 32 mg

12 & 2 hours prior to the exam

- B. If a patient has an allergy to **Prednisone**, a previous reaction to IV contrast, and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

DEXAMETHASONE 8MG PO

12 & 2 hours prior to the exam

- C. If patient is unable to take pills, then IV is available. See protocol below.
- a. IV only— If a patient has had a previous reaction to IV contrast and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

Hydrocortisone 200 mg IV

13, 7 & 1 hours prior to the exam.

- b. If a patient has an allergy to **Prednisone**, a previous reaction to IV contrast, and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

DEXAMETHASONE 8MG PO

12 & 2 hours prior to the exam

- D. The ordering doctor will need to prescribe the appropriate premedications.
- E. If any questions ask the radiologist.
- F. If the patient's exam is delayed, then we do not need to ask a Radiologist for specific

approval if it is within an hour of the premedication time. (For example, if they took meds at 12 and 2 hours before, and their scan time was Noon for example- then we can scan them up until 1pm)

- G. If a patient has missed a dose, then Imaging will follow the following guidelines.
- a. For Oral Premedications:
 - i. If the patient misses the 12 hours prior to injection dose, then the patient will need to be rescheduled.
 - ii. If the patient misses both doses (12 hours and 2 hours) prior to injection, then the patient will need to be rescheduled.
 - iii. If the patient misses the 2 hours prior to injection dose or it is longer timeframe than two hours prior to injection, then the patient will be given another dose of pre-medication.
 1. PO route- give 32 mg Methylprednisolone oral
 - a. Wait one hour after medication administration, then inject patient
 2. IV route- give 40 mg Solumedrol IV
 - a. Wait 15 minutes after medication administration, then inject patient.
 - b. For IV Premedications, the Technologist will refer to the Radiologist about appropriate premedication medications depending on each individual circumstance.
- H. If the patient is in need of Emergent Premedications:
- a. The physician ordering the test requiring emergency premedication will need to order the following medications:
 - Solumedrol - 125mg IV
 - Benadryl - 50mg IV
 - b. Patient needs to be injected with imaging contrast 30-60 minutes following the completion of the above stated IV medications. The optimal scan time is 30 minutes after completion of above stated medications
 - c. If the time of Imaging contrast injection goes past 60 minutes after completion of above stated medications verify with a Radiologist before injecting patient with Imaging contrast.
 - d. A registered nurse needs to be present during the injection of Imaging contrast and while the images are obtained.