



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 intravenous line (IV). IV administration of the GBCA has been ordered by your doctor, and makes it easier for us to find certain diagnoses and health conditions earlier and/or more accurately than a non-contrast MRI study. GBCA have been in clinical use in the United States for 30 years. Hundreds of millions of doses of GBCA have been safely given to patients throughout the world since these GBCA were first developed and approved for human diagnostic use.

A tiny amount of the gadolinium within the GBCA that we administer to those who need it has been found in some cases 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. Some of the available GBCA seem to leave less gadolinium in the body than do others. The GBCA that Princeton Radiology uses is widely felt to be among the class of agents that has the least retention.

Not all MRI studies need to use a GBCA. If your MRI study does need to use one of these agents, our radiologist is specially trained in the use of GBCA and has reviewed your medical history and important records, in conjunction with your ordering physician and their referral. In addition, our policy is to administer the least amount of GBCA necessary for proper diagnosis.

Should you have any questions about any of the above please ask to speak with a Princeton Radiology staff member.

SINCERELY,

YOUR CARE TEAM AT PRINCETON RADIOLOGY