



GALWAYCLINIC

WHAT MATTERS IS YOU

Member of the Blackrock Healthcare Group

CT Scan Contrast Dye

PATIENT INFORMATION

You have been referred by your doctor to have a computerised tomography (CT) scan. This leaflet will explain what the examination involves.

It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any queries or concerns with any part of your care, please ask to speak to the Radiographer in charge.

WHAT IS A CONTRAST DYE?

Contrast dye is a type of liquid that shows up on CT scan images. It can be drunk with water or injected through a small line (called a cannula) into a vein in your arm.

WHY DO I NEED CONTRAST DYE?

Some CT scans require the use of contrast dye to make diagnosis easier. Contrast dye when drunk, show the stomach and bowel more clearly. Contrast dye injected through a cannula can 'light up' blood vessels in your body called arteries and veins.

PREPARATION

Any pre-examination requirements, such as fasting, will be explained to you prior to visiting the department. If you are taking any medicines, please continue to take these as usual unless you have been told otherwise by your doctor.

ON THE DAY

Contrast Dye Drink – you will be given this in two cups and asked to drink it slowly over an hour. It has no flavour but a drinks flavour such as blackcurrant may be added.

If you need the dye injected, a Radiographer will place a small needle in your arm to help insert the cannula. This is a relatively painless procedure.

When on the CT table, contrast dye will be injected and may give you a hot flush sensation and a metallic taste in the mouth.

CONTRAST DYE RISKS & BENEFITS

Contrast dye is normally completely harmless and will pass unnoticed out of your body in your urine.

Before injecting contrast dye, the Radiographer will check your kidney function through a blood test. We perform these tests to ensure high standards of safety throughout your visit.

On rare occasions, during the injection the contrast dye may leak outside of your vein. If this happens the Radiographer will provide an ice pack to minimise discomfort and will instruct you on any after care.

Allergies to contrast dye are rare. Most allergic reactions are minor such as itching or sneezing. To minimise risk, a safety questionnaire will be completed prior to your scan.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR RADIOGRAPHER ON THE DAY.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

CT email address: **CT@galwayclinic.com**

Radiology Contact Number: **091 785630**