

# PATIENT INFORMATION

## Gadolinium Contrast & Safety

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans produce images of the inside of your body to help diagnose a variety of problems. In some cases, MRI with the use of contrast (or dye) called gadolinium shows clearer images than without contrast. Like with any medical test, you and your healthcare team must balance the benefits and risks of the exam.

Complications after receiving gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCA) are rare, and most are brief and resolve on their own. Side effects can include nausea, vomiting, or allergic reactions. Sometimes small amounts of gadolinium remain in patients who have received MRIs with contrast. Sites of gadolinium deposits include the brain, bone, skin, and other organs. In some rare situations, patients have reported pains, tiredness, and skin, muscle, or bone conditions, but these symptoms have not been directly linked to gadolinium.

Scientific research is being done on the retention of gadolinium in the body, but no effects have yet been proven. No scientific studies have found any harmful effects of gadolinium on patients who have normal kidney function.

GBCAs do not discolor your organs. When the MRI is finished, the contrast is filtered from your body through your kidneys and removed in your urine. For this reason, we screen your kidney health before administering contrast. If you have kidney problems or receive dialysis, talk with your doctor about what imaging study option is best for you.

More than 500 million doses of MRI contrast have been given worldwide. The medical community has great experience in safe administration and further research continues to be done. It is worth considering that a delayed or missed diagnosis due to avoiding the use of GBCAs is also a safety concern. Ultimately, it is your decision whether or not to receive contrast. Talk to your doctor about the best option for you.