



## **MRI Contrast (Multihance) Info Sheet**

Multihance is an intravenous gadolinium based contrast agent that produces magnetic effects. Gadolinium contrast media (sometimes called a MRI contrast media, agents or 'dyes') are chemical substances used in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. When injected into the body, gadolinium contrast medium enhances and improves the quality of the MRI images (or pictures). This allows the radiologist (a specialist doctor trained to examine the images and provide a written report to your doctor or specialist) to more accurately report on how your body is working and whether there is any disease or abnormality present. After the injection, the kidneys will filter out the contrast and will be urinated out within 12-24 hours.

Mild side effects of this injection include:

- Nausea/ Vomiting
- Headache
- Itching/Hives
- Cold feeling going up arm when injection is given
- Dizziness

Severe allergic (anaphylactic) reactions to gadolinium contrast medium have occurred, but are extremely rare. These severe reactions, which might involve difficulty breathing and swelling of the lips and mouth, occur in approximately 1 in every 10,000 people who have gadolinium. These severe reactions generally respond very well to standard emergency drug treatment, similar to that given for other severe allergic reactions. These are usually medications that will be given through the IV that was placed in your arm before or during the MRI scan. Pain Specialists of Charleston maintain stock of the medications required to treat these reactions, and are equipped to administer them when needed.

A blood creatinine from the past three months may be needed to help determine the overall function of the kidneys before the contrast can be injected. People who have a pre-existing kidney disease who are given a gadolinium based MR contrast agent may have a very small risk of developing a disease called Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF). To date, the disease has been linked to patients who received intravenous gadolinium based contrast agents who also have pre-existing kidney diseases. The vast majority, if not all of these cases, have severe or end stage renal disease.

If you have any questions about MRI contrast (Multihance) safety, please let the MRI technologist know before your test.