

When will I get the results?

We send the results to your doctor's office within 2 weeks of your scan. Make an appointment with your doctor to review the results.

How do I take care of myself at home?

Return to your regular diet.

Do not do use the arm that had the intravenous to do any heavy lifting for the remainder of the day.

Keep the intravenous area clean to lessen the chances of infection.

Over the next 24 hours, the contrast will pass through your kidneys and out into your urine. You will not notice it as it is clear.

When to get help

Contact your doctor or specialist if you have any of these:

- itchy skin with or without a red, raised, rash (hives)
- a fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills
- pain or any redness and swelling at or around the IV site

Go to the nearest Emergency if you have any trouble breathing and this is new for you.

HealthLinkBC

8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours. Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital Medical Imaging 2 nd Floor, Fraser Wing 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4868
Abbotsford MRI Clinic 5-2151 McCallum Road, Abbotsford	604-854-2196
BC Cancer Agency 1st Floor, 600 West 10th Ave, Vancouver	604-877-6000 Ext. 2274
BC Children's Hospital Teck Acute Care Centre, 1st Floor, 4500 Oak Street, Vancouver	604-875-2132
Burnaby Hospital Basement Floor, 3935 Kincaid Street, Burnaby	604-434-4211
Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, 9750 140 th Street, Surrey	604-588-3308 Ext 763925
Lions Gate Hospital Basement Floor, 231 East 15 th Street, North Vancouver	604-984-3792
Peace Arch Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 15521 Russell Ave, White Rock	604-535-4510
Richmond Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor, 7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond	604-244-5104
Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, 1st Floor, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster	604-520-4253
St. Paul's Hospital Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, Providence Building 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver	604-806-8006
Surrey Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, 1st Floor, Building A 13750 96 th Avenue, Surrey	604-588-3308
Surrey MRI Clinic 101-5660 192 nd Street, Surrey	604-953-9741
UBC Hospital Ground Floor, Purdy Pavilion, 2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver	604-822-7720
Vancouver General Hospital 1st Floor, Leon Judah Blackmore Pavilion 855 West 12 th Avenue, Vancouver	604-875-4366

www.fraserhealth.ca • www.vch.ca

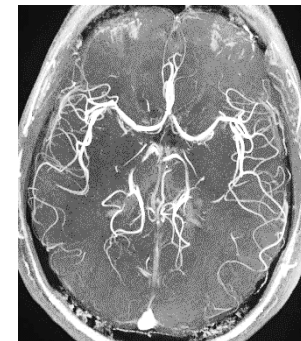
This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging with Gadolinium Contrast



An MRI of the brain with Gadolinium contrast

SBarnea [CC BY-SA 3.0] Wikimedia Commons

What is gadolinium contrast?

Gadolinium (say *gah-doh-lin-ee-um*) contrast is a type of dye used during a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan. It interacts with the magnetic field of the MRI scanner. The radiologist (a doctor who specializes in medical imaging) has asked us to use this dye for your MRI scan.



A bottle of contrast

Why do this procedure?

The MRI scan is very good at seeing soft tissue. When we use gadolinium contrast, we can get clearer images of internal organs and blood vessels.

Who does this procedure?

Our MRI technologists do the procedure. The radiologist reviews the images and sends a report to your doctor.

What if I am breastfeeding?

A very small amount (less than 1%) of gadolinium contrast is passed from the mother's breast milk to the baby. It is safe to continue to breastfeed your baby after getting the contrast. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.

What if I am on hemodialysis?

We suggest you arrange for a dialysis treatment within 2 to 3 hours after the scan.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the scan. For safety reasons, they cannot be in the room with you during the scan.

What happens before the procedure?

When you check-in for your scan, we will ask you to complete a safety screening form. One of our MRI technologists reviews the form with you.

We start an intravenous (IV) so we can give the contrast. We use a vein in your elbow, forearm, or back of hand. For some people, we use a vein in the foot. The intravenous must stay in place for the whole scan.



Intravenous placed in the elbow

Please let us know if you have a central line, such as a PICC line or port-a-cath.

What happens during the procedure?

We take images before and after we give you the contrast. We let you know when we are ready to give it to you. After giving the contrast, we make sure you are feeling okay before proceeding with the remaining images.

Does it hurt?

You might find it hurts when we start the intravenous in your arm.

When the contrast enters your arm, it will feel cold but should not hurt. If you feel pain or heat in the area, please **tell us right way**. If we are not in the room with you, squeeze the rubber call bell.

How long will it take?

Every person and situation is different. It usually takes between 30 to 60 minutes.

What happens afterward the procedure?

Once the scan is complete, we remove the intravenous and place a bandage over the area to stop any bleeding. Make sure you tell us if you are taking a blood thinner or Aspirin. It could mean it will take longer to clot. Before you leave, we need to make sure you have stopped bleeding.

Are there any risks or complications?

There is a chance of infection any time the skin is pierced.

The type of contrast we use is very safe. There is a small chance you could react. If this happens, the reaction is often mild. The most common reaction is skin itchiness. Some people feel sick to their stomach or have a headache. Rarely, a person can have an allergic reaction.

If you feel unwell or have a reaction, our radiologist will check you before you leave.