

Contrast Allergy Pre-Medication Clinical Guidance

Reviewed 1/6/2025

		Previous Contrast Reaction Severity		
		Mild	Moderate	Severe/ Anaphylaxis*
Imaging Urgency	Low (e.g. CT Chest for malignancy)	13 hour	13 hour	Consider alternate modality
	Medium (e.g., CT A/P for acute abdominal pain)	5 hour	5 hour	Consider alternate modality
	High* (e.g., CTA Lower Extremity for acute limb ischemia)	1 hour	1 hour	Consider alternate modality
* Decision to continue with contrast in this population requires accompaniment by a provider to CT and appropriate monitoring in the post-injection period.				

The ACR classification scheme of allergic-like contrast reactions is as follows:

Mild	Moderate	Severe/Anaphylaxis
Limited urticaria /pruritis	Diffuse urticaria /pruritis	Diffuse edema, or facial edema with dyspnea
Limited cutaneous edema	Diffuse erythema with stable vital signs	Diffuse erythema with hypotension
Limited “itchy”/“scratchy” throat	Facial edema without dyspnea	Laryngeal edema with stridor and/or hypoxia
Nasal congestion	Throat tightness or hoarseness without dyspnea	Wheezing / bronchospasm, with significant hypoxia
	Wheezing / bronchospasm, mild or no hypoxia	Anaphylactic shock (hypotension + tachycardia)