

# Contrast Agent Use in Medical Imaging: A Roadmap for Patients

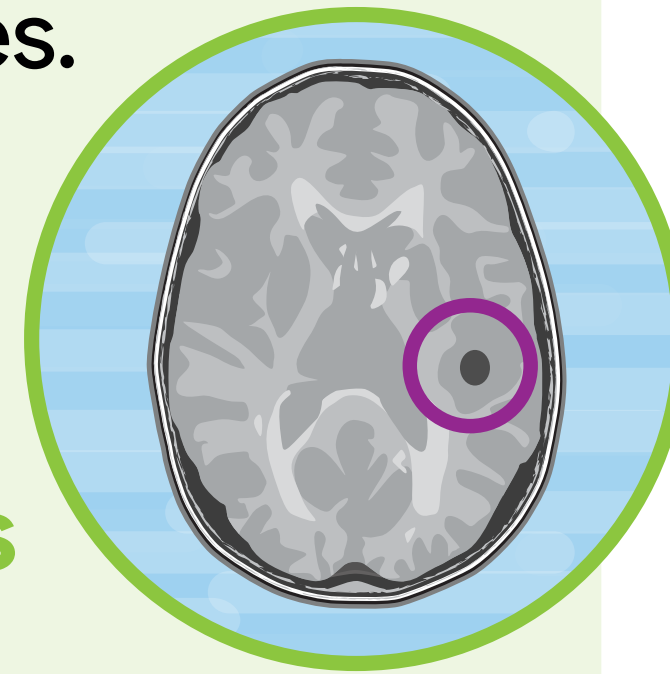
## What is contrast and why is it used?

Contrast is a type of chemical that works like a dye. The dye helps radiologists interpret medical images.

Contrast is used in certain cases to obtain the following benefits:



- Highlighting of certain body features
- More accurate diagnoses
- Reduced need for follow-up imaging



## What else do I need to know?

Minor allergic reactions to contrast are uncommon but may occur. Severe allergic reactions to contrast are extremely rare. Your healthcare team is equipped to treat all reactions, from mild to severe, appropriately and safely.

Tell your doctor about your medical history (especially if you are a kidney patient on dialysis), any allergies you have, and any medications or supplements you take.



## Common Types of Contrast and Their Use

	Barium-sulfate (or iodine-based)	Iodine-based	Gadolinium
	Used for digestive system; colon and rectum	Used for internal organs including the brain; arteries and veins; soft tissues; breast	
Test	X-RAY	✓	✓
	CT	✓	✓
	MRI		✓
Administration	ORAL (DRINK)	✓	✓
	RECTAL (ENEMA)	✓	✓
	INJECTION OR IV		✓

## Patient Journey

