

Prevention of Contrast-Induced Allergic Reaction Pre-medication Recommendations

Suggested pre-medication regimens for patients with a history of prior contrast reaction, known documented severe drug or food allergies or poorly controlled asthmatics.

- A. Prednisone 40mg by mouth at twelve (12) hours and one (1) hour before contrast injection.
- B. Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) 50 mg, at the discretion of the supervising physician. To be administered PO, IM or IV one (1) hour before the contrast medium injection.
- C. If patient unable to take oral medication, substitute Hydrocortisone 200mg IV for Prednisone 40mg.
- D. Every attempt should be made to administer steroids at least six (6) hours prior to injection of contrast medium regardless of the route of steroid administration.
- E. In urgent and/or life threatening situations where there is less than twelve (12) hours until contrast is to be given, use hydrocortisone 200mg IV, to be given as early as possible before the procedure, and every four (4) hours until the procedure, plus an H-1 antihistamine (i.e., 50mg diphenhydramine) given one (1) hour prior to the procedure.