

Allergic to Contrast? – How to Prepare for Your Test

You are getting these instructions because you have had a mild to moderate allergic reaction to IV contrast in the past. To keep you safe and to allow the test to take place as scheduled, you will be given medication that you must take at home before you come to the hospital for the test.

The provider that orders your CT scan will send a prescription to your pharmacy for a corticosteroid medication. There are two options: methylprednisolone or prednisone. When you get your medication from the pharmacy, check the bottle for which medication you have – the instructions are different for each medication. If you do not know which one you have, ask the pharmacist. Follow the directions below for the medication you were given.

Important: You must bring someone with you who can drive you home. If you do not bring someone to drive you home, your test may be cancelled.

<p>Methylprednisolone and Benadryl®</p> <p>- OR -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will take methylprednisolone 2 times before your CT scan. 1st time: 12 hours before your CT appointment 2nd time: 2 hours before your CT appointment <p>Each time, you must take 32 milligrams (mg). This medication comes in different strength tablets. Check the label on your medication or ask the pharmacist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If your pills are 32 mg each, take 1 tablet each time ➤ If your pills are 16 mg each, take 2 tablets each time ➤ If your pills are 8 mg each, take 4 tablets each time ➤ If your pills are 4 mg each, take 8 tablets each time <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 hour before your CT appointment: Take 50 mg of diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)
<p>Prednisone and Benadryl</p>	<p>You will take 50 mg of prednisone 3 times. 1st time: 13 hours before your CT appointment 2nd time: 7 hours before your CT appointment 3rd time: 1 hour before your CT appointment *When you take the 3rd dose of prednisone (1 hour before your appointment), take 50 of diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) too.</p>

Please call us at **716-845-3363** if:

- you have any questions about taking your pre-CT scan medication. (Your test may be significantly delayed or canceled if the medication is taken incorrectly.)
- you must postpone or cancel your scan