

Getting Ready for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Exam

This handout explains what you can expect when you have an MRI exam. Our goal is to keep you safe and comfortable during the exam, and to get clear pictures so we can provide you with the best care. Before you have the test, there are a few important things to know.

Safety Screening

The MRI scanner uses a strong magnet to make pictures of your body without the need for radiation. For your safety you will be asked a series of questions. These help us to make sure that you don't have metal in your body, and/or there are no other reasons that it would not be safe for you to have the exam. You will be asked to remove all jewelry. You may also need to change into clothes that can be worn in the MRI scanner. If needed, we will provide these. These assure that you are safe and help us to get the best pictures.

Hearing Safety and Communication

The MRI machine makes loud noise during the scan. To protect your hearing, we will give you ear plugs or headphones. Sometimes you may be able to listen to music through the headphones. During the exam, you will need to lie on a table. While some MRI scans only last a few minutes, others may require you to lie flat for 30-90 minutes. The MRI technologist will talk to you through a speaker and they can hear you at all times during the exam.

If at any time you need something, you can squeeze the ball that will be placed in your hand at the start of the exam. This will alert the technologist.

The Use of Gadolinium

For many MRI exams, you will need to get an injection through your IV. This is a contrast material that has gadolinium in it. Gadolinium is used to highlight blood vessels and other tissues of the body. This helps us to get better MRI pictures and to better detect a wide variety of diseases, both at the time of diagnosis and during follow-up. All requests for gadolinium are reviewed by a doctor. They will carefully decide if gadolinium needs to be used and which type of contrast material is best for you.

We only need to use a small amount of contrast material (about 2-4 teaspoons). More than 99% of patients tolerate it well. Almost all of the gadolinium is quickly flushed out by your kidneys and leaves your body through your urine. A tiny amount may stay in your body, but there are no known harmful effects from this. An example of the FDA medicine guide for the most commonly used gadolinium agent at UW Health is shown on the back side of this form.

Questions

Please be sure to ask our staff if you have any questions. Rest assured, we will take good care of you.

MEDICATION GUIDE
MULTIHANCE® (məl-tē-han(t)s)
(gadobenate dimeglumine)
Injection for intravenous use

What is MULTIHANCE?

- MULTIHANCE is a prescription medicine called a gadolinium-based contrast agent (GBCA). MULTIHANCE, like other GBCAs, is injected into your vein and used with a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner.
- An MRI exam with a GBCA, including MULTIHANCE, helps your doctor to see problems better than an MRI exam without a GBCA.
- Your doctor has reviewed your medical records and has determined that you would benefit from using a GBCA with your MRI exam.

What is the most important information I should know about MULTIHANCE?

- MULTIHANCE contains a metal called gadolinium. Small amounts of gadolinium can stay in your body including the brain, bones, skin and other parts of your body for a long time (several months to years).
- It is not known how gadolinium may affect you, but so far, studies have not found harmful effects in patients with normal kidneys.
- Rarely, patients have reported pains, tiredness, and skin, muscle or bone ailments for a long time, but these symptoms have not been directly linked to gadolinium.
- There are different GBCAs that can be used for your MRI exam. The amount of gadolinium that stays in the body is different for different gadolinium medicines. Gadolinium stays in the body more after Omniscan or Optimark than after Eovist, Magnevist, or MultiHance. Gadolinium stays in the body the least after Dotarem, Gadavist, or ProHance.
- People who get many doses of gadolinium medicines, women who are pregnant and young children may be at increased risk from gadolinium staying in the body.
- Some people with kidney problems who get gadolinium medicines can develop a condition with severe thickening of the skin, muscles and other organs in the body (nephrogenic systemic fibrosis). Your healthcare provider should screen you to see how well your kidneys are working before you receive MULTIHANCE.

Do not receive MULTIHANCE if you have had a severe allergic reaction to GBCAs including gadobenate dimeglumine, or any of the ingredients in MULTIHANCE.

Before receiving MULTIHANCE, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have had any MRI procedures in the past where you received a GBCA. Your healthcare provider may ask you for more information including the dates of these MRI procedures.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if MULTIHANCE can harm your unborn baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the possible risks to an unborn baby if a GBCA such as MULTIHANCE is received during pregnancy
- have kidney problems, diabetes, or high blood pressure.
- have had an allergic reaction to dyes (contrast agents) including GBCAs

What are the possible side effects of MULTIHANCE?

- See “What is the most important information I should know about MULTIHANCE?”
- **Allergic reactions. MULTIHANCE can cause allergic reactions that can sometimes be serious. Your healthcare provider will monitor you closely for symptoms of an allergic reaction.**

The most common side effects of MULTIHANCE include: nausea, headache, feeling hot, or burning at the injection site.

These are not all the possible side effects of MULTIHANCE.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of MULTIHANCE.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. You can ask your healthcare provider for information about MULTIHANCE that is written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in MULTIHANCE?

Active ingredient: gadobenate dimeglumine

Inactive ingredients: water

Manufactured by: BIPSO GmbH-78224 Singen (Germany)

Manufactured for: Bracco Diagnostics Inc., Monroe Township, NJ 08831

US Patent No. 4,916,246

For more information, go to www.imaging.bracco.com or call 1-800-257-5181.

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Issued: 04/2018

COEB403