

# About your MRI with Gadolinium Contrast Dye

## *For Patients with Kidney Disease*

Your provider has ordered an MRI with an IV (intravenous) contrast dye called gadolinium. This dye helps us take pictures of the inside of your body. These pictures help us look for any problem areas you might have so we can diagnose them.

Since you're a patient with severe kidney disease or acute kidney injury, there are things you need to know before you get this test.

We'll tell you about them in this document. Then we'll give you a chance to ask questions.

### How does the dye leave my body ?

When we do this test, the dye leaves your body through your kidneys. When you have kidney disease, it stays in your body longer.

### Will it hurt my kidneys?

No. It will not hurt your kidneys.

### Will it hurt other parts of my body?

When you have kidney disease and get this dye, it can sometimes cause problems in other parts of your body.

It's very rare, but you could develop a disease called NSF (nephrogenic systemic fibrosis).

NSF causes fibrosis of the skin and other tissues. Fibrosis means your body tissues get thick, stiff and will scar. It can be painful and there is no cure.

### *What is the risk?*

The risk for NSF with this type of dye and the amount we give you is very low. For every 10,000 patients with severe kidney disease that get this dye for an MRI, 7 will get it (this is less than 0.07 percent).

### Do I have to get this dye?

No. If you feel uncomfortable with the risks, you can decide not to get the dye when you have this test.

### *What if I choose not to get the dye?*

If you decide not to get it, we ask that you please talk with a radiologist **and** the provider who ordered the test.

An MRI without it might not allow us to see problems in your body. Areas of infection, cancer, or other disease could be invisible. This could affect your care.

### Questions

If you have questions, please ask the provider doing the test (your MRI technologist).

If they don't have the answers, they'll call another medical provider. They'll be able to help answer your questions.