

Radiology Department

# Gastrografin

Information for patients



**This leaflet answers common questions patients ask about their medicine and will help you to understand more about Gastrografin.**

## What is Gastrografin?

Gastrografin is a contrast medium (a dye) which contains iodine. It is used to show clearly on X-rays the area your doctor wants to investigate.

## Why am I being prescribed Gastrografin?

Your doctor has arranged for you to have an X-Ray examination of your gastrointestinal tract (gullet, stomach or intestines). X-Rays pass through your body. When the beam of X-Rays goes through your body it is absorbed to different degrees by different tissues such as bones, muscle and organs. When the X-Rays come out the other side they make a pattern of light and shade on a film to make a picture. Gastrografin helps to make the pattern clearer.

## How do I take Gastrografin?

You need to start taking Gastrografin at 12 noon three days before your appointment.

Add 5ml of Gastrografin to 500ml water (squash can be added according to taste) and take the 500ml diluted Gastrografin on the following days and times:

3 days before appointment	12 midday
3 days before appointment	8pm
2 days before appointment	12 midday
2 days before appointment	8pm
1 day before appointment	12 midday
1 day before appointment	8pm
Day of examination	7am (if you have a morning appointment) or 10am (if you have an afternoon appointment)

You will be given more Gastrografin to drink 30minutes before the scan.

## Does Gastrografin have any side effects?

All drugs may cause some side effects. Most people who receive Gastrografin cope well and experience few, if any side effects. It is important to take note of any new symptoms you experience after starting treatment and discuss them with the X-Ray department staff.

In some people Gastrografin can cause a feeling of nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, skin rashes and very rarely an anaphylactic/allergic type reaction.

## Can I take other medicines along with Gastrografin?

You should continue to take your regular medication as prescribed by your doctor unless otherwise informed.

If you are taking Interleukin-2 or have done so within the last several weeks, then you should phone the Radiology Department and let us know, stating the last date you received this medication.

If you are taking beta-blockers, hypersensitivity or allergic type reactions can be aggravated. Please contact the Radiology Department using the telephone number on your appointment letter if this happens.

## Is there any situation when I shouldn't take Gastrografin?

If you are hypersensitive to iodine-containing contrast media or have manifest hyperthyroidism then you should not take Gastrografin. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, please contact the Radiology Department using the telephone number on your appointment letter to discuss your scan.

If you are having thyrotropic radioisotopes for thyroid disorders, Gastrografin may make this test/treatment less effective for up to several weeks. Always tell your doctor that you have had Gastrografin recently.

## Where can I obtain further information?

Further information can be obtained from the Radiology Department using the telephone number on your appointment letter.

### **Caution**

**Keep all tablets and medicines out of the reach of children**

**Never give any medications prescribed for you to anyone else.**

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

Verity Hailey, Cardiac & Radiology Pharmacist  
Approved by Helen Nicholl, Superintendent CT Radiographer &  
Dr A. Slater, Consultant Radiologist  
Version 1, November 2009  
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Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust  
Oxford OX3 9DU  
[www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk)