



Title	Safety of Gadolinium-Containing Contrast Agents for Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Patients with Renal Disease
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Reference	VA Technology Assessment Program Brief Overview, December 2006

Aim

To review the literature to determine the safety of using gadolinium-containing contrast agents for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in patients with renal disease.

Conclusions and results

The review resulted in 63 citations, of which 20 were selected for full-text retrieval. The searches did not identify case-control or cohort studies connecting gadolinium exposure to nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF). One study examined the association of nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy (NFD) with renal transplant.

Recommendations

Evidence is not available to make a recommendation on the use of gadolinium-containing contrast agents for MRI in patients with renal disease.

Methods

MEDLINE and EMBASE were searched from 1995 to November 2006 for specific terms (adverse reactions; complications; nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy; gadolinium; epidemiology) and specific study types (case-control, cohort) for NFD and NSF. All searches were aimed at identifying articles studying an association between gadolinium exposure and NFD, or the safety of gadolinium-containing contrast agents in patients with renal disease. All full-text articles were retrieved.

Further research/reviews required

Discussed in detail in the report.