

# Letters

## Anaphylactoid Reactions to Water-Soluble Iodinated Contrast Media

Concerning the review article "Anaphylactoid Reactions to the Nonvascular Administration of Water-Soluble Iodinated Contrast Media" [1], my experience should be of interest. Ending approximately 20 years ago, I personally performed more than 50,000 arthrographic examinations, more than 80% of them of the knee, all of the latter with 15 mL of the older high-osmolar contrast agent diatrizoate sodium (Hypaque, Amersham Health), or, later on, diatrizoate meglumine and diatrizoate sodium (Renografin-60, Bracco Diagnostics) with a small amount of lidocaine mixed in. These agents are supposed to have a higher risk of anaphylactic reactions compared with the newer low-osmolar compounds.

None of my patients had a severe reaction, and only two patients had wheezing

and throat fullness such that I administered subcutaneous epinephrine and oral antihistamines and started an IV line for steroids. Minor reactions like hives occasionally occurred while the patient was still in the office, and a few patients returned the next day with skin reactions (which at the time I wrongly told them were unlikely to be from the contrast agent because they only occurred that night or the next day). Previously a small number of patients had had major reactions to intravascular contrast agents. After I explained the risks (including death), most elected to undergo the study without premedication, and several chose to return for the examination the next day after premedication with dexamethasone and antihistamines. No patient in either group had any reaction to the contrast agent.

Of interest is the faint filling of thread-like vessels seen near the menisci present

on some of the six spot radiographs of the menisci (each including both menisci and each about 2–3 cm high) that I obtained starting approximately 3–5 minutes after the injection. In a consecutively imaged series of 100 patients, 98 had this finding, which suggested that some of the vessels were tiny veins and some possibly lymphatics. The injections had been made under the midportion of the patella and nowhere near the menisci, and none of the tiny vessels had any component going anywhere near the injection site.

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WEB—This is a web exclusive article.

## Reference

1. Davis PL. Anaphylactoid reactions to the nonvascular administration of water-soluble iodinated contrast media. *AJR* 2015; 204:1140–1145