

Oral Omnipaque™ for CT scans

(Northern services)

Other formats

If you need this leaflet in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service:

- 01392 402093 (for Mid Devon, East Devon and Exeter services)
- 01271 314090 (for North Devon services)
- rduh.pals@nhs.net

What is Omnipaque™ and what is it used for?

Omnipaque™ is a contrast medium (dye) which contains iodine. It is used in x-ray procedures to highlight the area of the body that the doctor wants to investigate. For this type of CT scan it will be your colon.

Why is it needed?

Your doctor has asked for you to have a CT scan to look at your large bowel which is also known as the colon. Before the scan you will need to prepare at home by drinking a contrast dye to show up the large bowel (see instructions below). This contrast can take a while to move along the bowel, so you need to start the preparation the day before the scan. Your scan may also involve an injection of contrast dye but this will be explained at your appointment.

How is it taken?

For this CT scan, the Omnipaque™ you have been provided is diluted in water and taken orally. You may mix this with cordial if desired. You may eat and drink and go to the toilet as normal. You may take any medications as prescribed.

Mixing instruction and dosage

You have been provided with a 50ml bottle of Omnipaque™. The bottle contains two doses and the following instructions will tell you how to prepare this.

The day before the scan

At 8am, mix half the contents of the bottle (25ml) with one litre of water. Drink one cupful every ten minutes. This should take you about an hour.

At 6pm, mix the rest of the contents of the bottle (25ml) with one litre of water. Drink one cupful every ten minutes. This should take you about an hour.

The day of the scan

You will be asked to drink one litre of water and Omnipaque™ for one hour prior to your scan when you are at the hospital. This will be made up for you when you attend your appointment. The appointment time you have been given includes this drinking time.

Special precautions

You should not use Omnipaque™ if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to Omnipaque™.

You should not use Omnipaque™ if you suffer from severe uncontrolled thyroid problems.

You should consult your doctor before taking this medication if you think you may be pregnant.

Despite being licensed as an injectable medicine it can be safely taken orally.

What to do if you miss a dose

If you miss a dose you should contact the CT department on the number provided in your appointment letter as your appointment may need to be rescheduled.

Can I take other medications with Omnipaque™?

You can continue to take any medications as prescribed by your doctor unless informed otherwise.

What are the alternatives?

If you are unable to take Omnipaque™ there may be other alternatives. You should contact the CT department on the number provided on your appointment letter. We will then be able to talk through different options.

Possible side effects

Like all medications, Omnipaque™ can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Serious reactions (including anaphylaxis) are rare and usually happen immediately but there may be a delayed reaction. Effects associated with Omnipaque™ are usually mild to moderate and last only a short time.

Signs of a **severe** reaction include:

- Wheeziness, difficulty in breathing and or tightness or pain in your chest
- Skin rash, lumps, itchy spots, blisters on skin and in the mouth, red itchy eyes, cough runny nose, sneezing or other allergic symptoms
- Swelling of your face
- Dizziness or feeling faint

If you experience any of the above symptoms **you must STOP taking Omnipaque™** immediately. If you are taking Omnipaque™ at home and the symptoms are severe you should call 999 immediately. If you are in the hospital you should inform staff immediately.

Apart from the symptoms listed above, other side-effects you may experience include:

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain

Any of the above effects can happen several hours or days after Omnipaque™ has been given. If you are at home and experience any of these symptoms contact your GP or NHS 111 for advice. If you are experiencing a severe reaction call 999 immediately.

If you are concerned, or are experiencing any side effects not listed above, contact your doctor or inform the CT department.

How to store Omnipaque™

- Keep out of reach and sight of children.
- Do not use after the expiry date on the bottle.
- Store at or below 30°C and protected from sunlight.
- Check the container for damage prior to use.
- Once in use, ensure the bottle is sealed with the rubber bung between doses.

Further information

Keep this information safe as you may need to read it again.

If you have any further questions please contact the CT department on the number provided on your appointment letter.

References

GE Healthcare. Omnipaque™ (Iohexol) package leaflet: Information for the patient. Last revised in February 2023.

Your notes

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern, please contact PALS:

- 01392 402093 (for Mid Devon, East Devon and Exeter services)
- 01271 314090 (for North Devon services)
- rduh.pals@nhs.net

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You can also share your feedback on the Care Opinion website at www.careopinion.org.uk or freephone 0800 122 3135.



Scan the QR code to visit the Care Opinion website →

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