



Contrast Allergy Preparation for Radiology Studies (CT, MRI, Interventional Radiology)

Why do I need to prepare for this test?

Your doctor has ordered an imaging test that uses contrast material injected into a vein. Different types of imaging tests use different types of contrast materials. Patients who have had a previous allergic reaction to the type of contrast material to be used in the test are at increased risk for a serious allergic reaction compared to the general population. This can be harmful or even life threatening in a very small number of patients. Taking medications before the test may reduce this risk, but it cannot be completely eliminated.

What is the plan?

Step 1: Obtain prescriptions from your doctor

Step 2: Fill prescriptions at local pharmacy

Step 3: Take Medications:

- **13 hours** before your test: Take Prednisone 50mg by mouth
- **7 hours** before your test: Take Prednisone 50 mg by mouth
- **1 hour** before your test:
 - Take Prednisone 50 mg by mouth
 - Take Diphenhydramine 50 mg by mouth (you may buy Diphenhydramine over-the-counter. You may take a generic Diphenhydramine medication, or Benadryl®, the brand name)

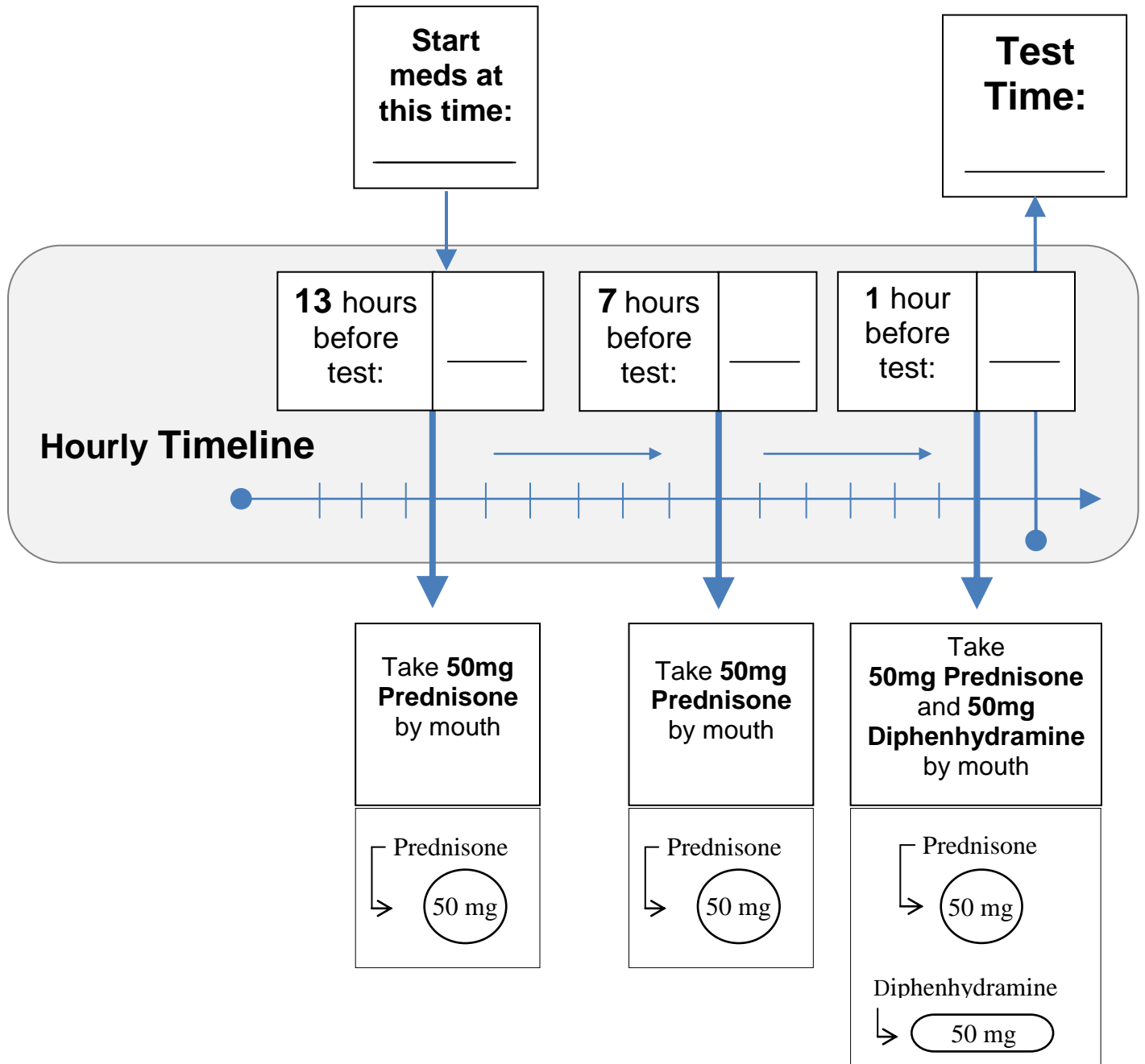
Test Date:	Test Time:
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Take the medications with a few sips of water, especially if you are not allowed to eat and/or drink before the test.

If you don't take these medications as directed, you will **NOT** be able to take the test.

Follow the time-line:

Please fill-in the appropriate hours in the blank time spaces. It will help you remember exactly when to take the medications. Make sure to fill your prescription at least 14 hours before the test.



Can I adjust the time-line for my convenience?

- You may only adjust the timing of the **prednisone doses** scheduled for **13 hours** before the test or scheduled for **7 hours** before the test. You may adjust the timing by **up to a total of one hour**.

For example, you could take the first dose at 14 hours before the test in order to get seven hours of sleep before the dose scheduled at 7 hours before the test. Or you could take the first dose at 13 hours before the test and the second dose at 6 hours before the test.

- You may not adjust the timing of the medications you need to take one hour before the test.

What precautions do I need to follow?

Diphenhydramine can make you drowsy. Do not drive or operate machinery while you are taking this medication. You will need to arrange for a driver to and from the appointment, due to the possibility of drowsiness from this medication.

Make sure to tell your doctor if you are allergic to or cannot tolerate prednisone or diphenhydramine. Alternatives may be available.

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