

## CT DCN PEDIATRIC ORAL CONTRAST – HELPFUL HINTS

- Oral contrast is diluted Omnipaque 240. Follow **Pediatric Oral Contrast Dosage** Chart for dosing. Diluent can be flavored gatorade, or apple juice, formula or milk for newborn to 6 months.
- Follow time and rate of administration based on patient weight, but also activity level. A patient that can walk in the halls for exercise may need less wait time than a patient that is bed bound. Encourage activity if possible.
- *Wait time* is usually 1 to 1 ½ hours from the start of drinking. For patients 10 years old or more, wait time would be about 2 hours from the start of drinking.
- If a patient can not drink the full amount of contrast, instruct them to drink as much as possible. If after 1 ½ hours, the patient has not drunk *at least half of the desired amount* of contrast, instruct them to continue to drink, and come back in about 45 minutes. The goal is for them to drink “as much as possible, but at least half”. If the patient drinks less than the suggested amount, it will probably take longer. If you are unsure if you should scan or wait longer, consult the radiologist.
- For inpatients, you will usually tube or walk the bottle with instructions to the patient’s nurse. You will probably need to explain to the nurse the instructions on the phone or in person. This is not an exam that they see very often. Be patient with the nurses.
- We do not currently have gastrografin at DCN. If the patient is allergic to contrast, or there is any concern in the patient drinking diluent Omnipaque, consult the radiologist.
- You can always call a radiologist for clarification, or for specific questions about dosing or timing.