



Royal Papworth Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Omnipaque 300™

A patient's guide

What is Omnipaque and what is it used for?

Omnipaque is a contrast medium (dye) which contains iodine and is for diagnostic use only. It is used to show clearly on x-rays the area of the body your doctor wants to investigate. For this CT scan it will be your intestines (gastro-intestinal tract).

When you have a CT the x-rays are absorbed to different degrees by different tissues such as bones, muscles and organs. The Omnipaque is dense to x-rays and helps us highlight the intestines.

Please contact the CT department if your symptoms change between referral for the CT and the appointment for the scan.

Before you take the Omnipaque

Do not use the Omnipaque if:

- You are, or suspect you are, allergic (hypersensitive) to iodine or iodine-containing contrast media or any of the other ingredients of Omnipaque. (see Further information on page 4).
- You have had a previous reaction to Omnipaque.
- You have a condition caused by too much thyroid hormone (manifest hyperthyroidism).

Omnipaque may affect the way the thyroid gland works for several weeks after you have been given it. If you are going to have an **iodine test for thyroid disease**, tell your doctor or the laboratory staff if you have taken Omnipaque recently.

Taking or using other medicines

Please tell the CT department staff if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without prescription.

This is particularly important for:

- Interleukin-2 - there is a higher chance of delayed reactions to the Omnipaque eg fever, flu-like symptoms, joint pain and pruritis (itching) within two weeks of taking the interleukin-2.
- Beta-blockers - can make allergic reactions worse.

Pregnancy and breast feeding

Tell the CT staff **before** taking the Omnipaque if you think you may be pregnant.

Thyroid disease and allergies

You must tell the CT staff if you have any of the following:

- Any type of thyroid disease (eg hyperthyroidism).
- A history of allergy or tendency to develop hypersensitivity reaction (for example if you have hayfever, asthma or eczema).

How will you be given the Omnipaque?

You have been provided with a total of 20ml of Omnipaque which is to be drunk as a solution.

Each dose is 5ml and must be diluted in 300ml of water.

Please take at the times indicated on your appointment letter. You may eat and drink normally.

Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Omnipaque can cause side-effects, although not everybody gets them. Serious reactions (including anaphylaxis) are only seen on rare occasions. Effects associated with Omnipaque are usually mild to moderate, and transient in nature.

If you notice:

- Itching of the skin, rash, weals on the skin (urticaria)
- Difficultly breathing, gagging, feeling of suffocation
- Swelling of the face, neck or body
- Itchy or watery eyes, tickling in the throat or nose, hoarseness, coughing or sneezing
- Headache, dizziness, feeling faint
- Feeling particularly hot or cold, sweating
- Paleness or reddening of the skin
- Chest pain, cramp, tremor
- Feeling sick

then **STOP taking the Omnipaque. These may be the first sign of an allergic reaction and you may require treatment.**

If you are taking the Omnipaque at home, contact your GP or if the symptoms are severe, call 999 immediately.

If you are in hospital inform staff immediately.

Apart from the symptoms listed above the other side effects you may experience are:

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain

Delayed reactions can occur. If you are concerned, please contact your doctor.

If the side effects are serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this sheet, please inform your doctor or the CT staff.

How to store the 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 light.
- Check integrity of container prior to use, ie that it is sealed and undamaged.

Further information

Precautions before taking Omnipaque:

- Keep this information - you may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions please contact the CT Department on 01223 638404
- If any of the side effects become serious or you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or the staff in CT.
- A CT information leaflet is included with your appointment letter.

What Omnipaque contains

The active ingredient is: Iohexol (a non-ionic, monomeric, triiodinated, water soluble X-ray contrast). Strength per ml in Iohexol 300 mg I/ml 647 mg equivalent 300 mg I.

The following non-active ingredients are included: trometamol, sodium calcium edetate, hydrochloric acid (pH adjustment), water for injections.

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