

Include desensitization to radiocontrast media in the diagnostic algorithm.

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In the newly published article: “Medical algorithm: Diagnosis and treatment of radiocontrast media hypersensitivity” K. Brockow [1], suggested an algorithm for the evaluation of hypersensitivity to radiocontrast media (RCM). However, one important aspect has been left out of the suggested algorithm, the opportunity to desensitize patients with probable or confirmed immediate hypersensitivity reactions to radiocontrast media. Especially those reacting to more than one substance. Desensitization to allergens is a standard preventative measure of anaphylaxis when patients have a history of severe immediate hypersensitivity reactions to a drug, and there are no therapeutic alternatives [2]. Protocols for RCM desensitization are known from case reports [3,4], and need more work and research before standardized protocols can be recommended, but they can facilitate the use of radiocontrast media in important situations such as the need for acute coronary angiograms. Such situations are rare, but an algorithm should include information and pathways to facilitate the best treatment possible for all patients. Suggested change in the algorithm is to include the option “rapid desensitization” in the pathway “RCM urgently needed without test possibility and indispensable need for the RCM”, and in the pathway for “patients with confirmed RCM hypersensitivity with immediate hypersensitivity reactions to several RCM’s for situations with indispensable need for RCM”. This would help to facilitate the best point of care for more patients with hypersensitivity to RCM.

Dr. Alnæs has nothing to disclose. Dr Alnæs is the only contributor to this article.

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3. Mona Al-Ahmada and Tito Rodriguez Bouzab ,Successful desensitization to radiocontrast media in two high-risk cardiac patients. Ann Saudi Med. 2017; 37(4): 333–335. doi: 10.5144/0256-4947.2017.333
4. Saurav Uppal , Anthony E DeCicco , Anselma Intini et al. Rapid Desensitization to Overcome Contrast Allergy Prior to Urgent Coronary Angiography. Int Heart J 2018; 30; 59(3):622-625. doi: 10.1536/ihj.17-395.