Metformin and IV Contrast Studies

If you are taking Metformin as part of treatment for Diabetes or for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, it may need to be stopped temporarily if you are going to have an X-ray study using intravenous (IV) iodine-based contrast. Ask your caregiver if this applies to you.

In rare cases, if Metformin is not stopped before doing an x-ray study that uses this type of contrast, a serious or life-threatening medical problem can develop. This problem is more likely if:

- You have known kidney problems
- You have certain known liver problems.
- You have certain types of heart problems. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Heart Failure
  - Weak heart muscle.
  - Heart attack
  - Heart infection.
  - Heart valve problems.
- You drink alcohol and have certain heart problems.
- You are an adult and screening tests show normal kidney function. Even if screening tests are normal, it is possible that your Metformin may need to be stopped temporarily.

Your caregiver will tell you if and when to stop your Metformin before the planned X-ray test. It is usually re-started about 48 hours after the test is finished. Your caregiver may ask for additional testing to make sure your kidney function is normal before you start Metformin again. Every patient is different, and your caregiver will help you develop the plan that is best for you.

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