MRAD 223 – Patient Care 1

Purpose of Contrast Agents and Media

Purpose: *Describe administering contrast media via appropriate route.*

Purpose of Administering Contrast Agents

- Expand collapsible organs.
- Provide an outline of the surrounding tissues.
- Enhance the presentation of the organ or blood vessel, as contrast agents attenuate x-rays thus causing the organ or vessel to "stand out".
- Differentiate closely located organs that are similar in composition. Tissues similar in composition will attenuate or absorb x-rays the same; contrast agents distinguish these organs or tissues from each other (e.g., kidney and liver).

Every contrast agent will come with an information sheet indicating the content, strength, contraindications and precautions.

Characteristics of contrast media:

- Negative/Positive
- Ionic/Non-ionic
- Water soluble/Non-water soluble

Routes used to administer contrast agents:

- Oral
- Rectal
- Intravenous
- Intra-arterial

- Intrathecal
- Intra-articular

X-ray procedures that require a parenteral-route injection must have an **informed** consent. Some procedures require a "standard/general consent form", while other procedures require a "contrast consent form". Both a standard/general consent form and a contrast consent form require the patient's signature, because parenteral-route injections have risks and complications.

- Intrathecal (subarachnoid space) – requires a "standard/general consent form"
- Intra-articular (into a joint space) – requires a "standard/general consent form"
- Intravenous (into a vein) – requires a "contrast consent form"
- Intra-arterial (into an artery) – requires a "contrast consent form"