

# HOW and WHEN DO I ORDER CONTRAST?

- Almost always, CTs ordered should be ordered “with” OR “without” only – NOT BOTH.
- A ‘with and without’ protocol is generally needed only for exams to assess the following
  - Hematuria
  - Known masses or lesions of the liver, kidneys and pancreas
  - Acute jaundice with abdominal pain/fever/known gallstones
- CT of the abdomen and pelvis (with the exception of a CT stone study and CT angiography) will receive an oral contrast prep.
- General survey exams for pain or other non-specific symptoms can be performed either “with IV contrast only” or “without IV contrast only” but **should not** be “with and without” as such a scan increases patient radiation dose and generally without added diagnostic value.
- Common indications that do not require the use of IV contrast:
  - flank pain
  - evaluate for urinary tract calculus
  - hernia.
- CT scans are best performed “with” contrast for the following indications (i.e. typically NOT performed “with and without”)
  - Abdomen pain
  - Pancreatitis
  - Painless jaundice
  - Abdominal mass
  - r/o Small Bowel Obstruction
  - Staging Colorectal Carcinoma
  - To assess vascular pathology
  - Assess for abscess
- CT Chest for possible or follow up nodules should be ordered WITHOUT contrast.
- Any CT for neoplasm (known or suspected) should be performed with IV contrast if possible.

\* IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON A PARTICULAR CASE SCENARIO, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ONE OF OUR RADIOLOGISTS \*