

Ordering an AP scan with PO contrast

Last Updated: 09/2025

How to order it?

- Specify you wish to have PO contrast included for the scan in your ordering comments

Who typically orders the contrast?

- When protocolling a study, the standard is for the Radiology MD to instruct the radiology technologist to order the contrast (via "Rad Oral Contrast" order set)

Standard contrast regimen?

- Adults
 - o Gastrograffin 15 ml in 450 ml x 2 (900 ml volume total)
- Pediatrics

Peds Protocol Index		Gastrographin		
Search for Color Code	Weight	Oral Contrast	Fluid in mls	Fluid in ounces
Pink	5.5-7.4 kg	2 mls	60 mls	2 oz.
Red	7.5-9.4 kg	4 mls	120 mls	4 oz.
Purple	9.5-11.4 kg	6 mls	180 mls	6 oz.
Yellow	11.5- 14.4 kg	7 mls	210 mls	7 oz.
White	14.5-18.4 kg	8 mls	240 mls	8 oz.
Blue	18.5-23.4 kg	10 mls	300 mls	10 oz.
Orange	23.5-29.4 kg	12 mls	360 mls	12 oz.
Green	29.5-36.4 kg	13 mls	390 mls	13 oz.
Black	36.5 -55 kg	15 mls	450 mls	15 oz.

Timing relative to scan:

- Scan ideally performed 45 minutes after PO contrast completed
- Caveats
 - o Transportation issues – the order set used by the radiology technologists (Rad Oral Contrast) gives instructions for the RN to call prior to and after contrast is administered to help mitigate this issue
 - o It's a lot to drink so sometimes the sipping patient won't be timed right
 - o If the GI tract has been altered (resection, short gut) or the patient has altered motility (GLP-1 agonists, gastroparesis, etc...) transit time can be variable

How much do they need to drink?

- Ideally all of it, but we will take what we can get

What if there is a contrast allergy:

- Standard steroid prep rules apply (see DukeRads)

Cases where we STRONGLY discourage use of positive oral contrast:

- Suspected GI bleed, renal stone, and/or mesenteric ischemia

IBD evaluations

- For these evaluations we use a negative contrast agent (Breeza) that distends the bowel – radiology will order and manage this with our technologists