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## Patients' safety and the "iodine allergy" – How should we manage patients with iodine allergy before they receive an iodinated contrast medium?



To the Editor

Both physicians and patients intensely use the term "iodine allergy". This is indeed surprising, because it has been mentioned that this kind of allergy does not exist [1,2]. Moreover, a recent article clearly shows that the term "iodine allergy" is inexact, and increases the risk for the acquisition of an adverse reaction induced by an iodinated contrast medium [3]. Therefore, to increase patients' safety we would like to teach both physicians of different specialties, and patients by a comic (Fig. 1).

We believe that it's time for a new form of medical education. We think it is time for an Educational Comic. Medical knowledge is rapidly increasing. Therefore, it is impossible for every physician to know everything. Even within a medical specialty, knowledge is so bulky that it is difficult to get an overview. Currently, radiological examinations are important procedures in the medical diagnostic process. Moreover,

radiological examinations are at the interface of several medical disciplines. Unfortunately, non-radiologists are not familiar with important background facts around of a radiological examination. So, we like to introduce an Educational Comic to improve knowledge in all medical disciplines in an enjoyable way.

All physicians are always busy. Actually, very busy. So busy that they do not have time enough to read (whole) articles in professional journals. This circumstance may lead to the fact that they could probably miss interesting information. Okay. How can we solve the problem? We had the idea to wrap the essentials into a medical comic, because radiologists as well as physicians of other disciplines are trained to process visual information even when tired. If these pictures tell a funny story, some rudimental information of the story or of the comic should remain in the physicians' brains. If this scarce information will probably drive them to get further information, the comic has reached its goal.



Fig. 1. Iodine allergy comic.

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**References**

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