BioSpectrum the business of Bio & Health Sciences ASIA EDITION

Is repeated MRI harmful to brain? FDA investigates

July 28, 2015 | Regulatory | By BioSpectrum Bureau

Is repeated MRI harmful to brain? FDA investigates



Singapore: FDA is investigating the risk of brain deposits following repeated use of gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

According to published reports, deposits of GBCAs for MRI remain in the brains of some patients who undergo four or more contrast MRI scans. It is unknown whether these gadolinium deposits are harmful or can lead to adverse health effects. After being administered, GBCAs are mostly eliminated from the body through the kidneys. However, trace amounts of gadolinium may stay in the body long-term. Recent studies conducted in people and animals have confirmed that gadolinium can remain in the brain, even in individuals with normal kidney function.

FDA, including its National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), will study this possible safety risk further. FDA is working with the research community and industry to understand the mechanism of gadolinium retention and to determine if there are any potential adverse health effects.