

Comparison of Commercially Available Terminal Vascular Contrast Agents

	BriteVu®	Microfil®	Mercox
Cost per mouse¹	\$ 23 USD	\$ 30 USD	\$ 29 USD
Working time once prepared	Will stay in solution indefinitely when kept above 40°C and adjusted for water loss	20-45 minutes	5-10 minutes
Curing time once perfused	30-60 minutes	Same as working time above	Same as working time above
Scanning time post-perfusion	60-90 minutes	90 minutes	Tissues must be chemically macerated leaving a cast that is scanned at a later time
Stability of purchased product	5 years when stored unmixed in a cool dry location	< 6 months	'Store both the resin and the catalyst in a cool dark cabinet to avoid decomposition of the peroxide catalyst and spontaneous polymerization of the resin.' ²
Toxicity^{1, 2}	Non-toxic	Contains lead chromate- a carcinogen and produces poisonous gases in fire	Dangerous, highly flammable liquid and vapor, skin irritant, may cause allergic skin reaction and respiratory irritation
Disposal^{1, 2}	Not environmentally hazardous- practice standard waste disposal	Dispose of as hazardous waste	'Burn in a chemical incinerator equipped with an afterburner and scrubber but exert extra care in igniting as this material is highly flammable- observe all state, federal and local laws' ²

¹Gignac PM, Kley NJ, Clarke JA, et al. Diffusible iodine-based contrast-enhanced computed tomography (dIcc-CT): an emerging tool for rapid, high resolution, 3-D imaging of metastatic soft tissues. *J of Anatomy*. 2016;228(5):889-909.

²Based on Safety Data sheets available from respective parent companies.



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