# Tragic death of woman following allergic reaction during CT scan raises concerns over dental care delays



A 34-year-old woman, Leigh Rodgers, passed away following an allergic reaction to a contrast dye during a CT scan after being taken to the University Hospital of North Durham for severe toothache. Leigh, a kitchen designer at B&Q and resident of Stanhope, Co. Durham, had been experiencing tooth pain that radiated to her neck and chest for approximately two weeks. Her condition prompted her family to call for an ambulance on March 7, 2024, after she was unable to secure a dental appointment due to longstanding NHS waiting times and backlogs.

Upon her arrival at the hospital, she was assessed for a potential tooth abscess and underwent a CT scan to rule out Ludwig's angina, a serious bacterial infection. The scan revealed no evidence of Ludwig's angina, yet the use of iodine-based contrast media during the procedure led to a fatal allergic reaction. Tragically, Leigh succumbed just 90 minutes after the scan.

An inquest conducted on February 19, 2025, was informed by her mother, Pam Rodgers, 56, that she believes her daughter's death could have been averted had Leigh received dental care in a timely manner. "Every time I close my eyes I imagine my daughter in the coffin," Pam recounted, expressing grief and frustration over the circumstances. She stated, “If she could’ve got a dental appointment, she wouldn’t be dead, and if she could’ve got urgent care she wouldn’t have been dead."

Leigh's partner, Darren, corroborated Pam's account, highlighting that Leigh had attempted to secure a dentist appointment for weeks without success. The inquest further revealed that risks associated with the CT scan procedure were not adequately communicated to Leigh, with Pam asserting there was no informed consent received regarding the contrast dye used.

During the inquest at Crook Coroners' Court, Senior Assistant Coroner Crispin Oliver confirmed that Leigh's death resulted from the anaphylactic shock triggered by the contrast media. Despite attempts to revive her, the medical team could not save her life following the reaction.

Pam expressed her dissatisfaction with how the risks of the CT scan were conveyed, criticising the medical staff for failing to provide adequate information about potential complications. She suggested that there should be clearer communication protocols, including the distribution of informational materials to patients undergoing such procedures.

In response to the tragedy, a spokesperson for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust extended condolences to Leigh's family and affirmed their commitment to improving patient care. “We are deeply saddened by Leigh's death, and our heartfelt condolences go out to her family during this incredibly difficult time," the representative stated. They also mentioned that a thorough investigation into Leigh's case has been conducted, with findings shared with her family and steps being taken to ensure that lessons learned from this incident are integrated across the Trust’s services.

The inquest has shone a light on the potential risks associated with the use of contrast media in medical imaging, as outlined in guidance from NHS Direct, which notes that while complications from CT scans are rare, allergic reactions to the contrast material can occur, resulting in serious health consequences.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/03/19/mother-died-rare-allergic-reaction-hospital-with-toothache/> - This article corroborates the details of Leigh Rodgers' death due to an allergic reaction to contrast dye during a CT scan, including her background and the circumstances leading to her hospitalization.
* <https://economictimes.com/magazines/panache/woman-undergoes-ct-scan-after-tooth-ache-days-after-she-dies/articleshow/118545686.cms> - This report confirms Leigh Rodgers' tragic death following a severe allergic reaction to iodine-based contrast dye used in a CT scan after experiencing persistent toothache.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ct-scan/> - This NHS webpage provides information on CT scans, including the potential risks associated with contrast media, which aligns with the complications Leigh Rodgers faced.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/nhs-services-dental/> - This NHS resource explains dental services and waiting times, which is relevant to Leigh Rodgers' difficulty in securing a dental appointment.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nhs-england> - This government webpage provides general information about NHS services and policies, which can be related to the broader context of Leigh Rodgers' case, including NHS waiting times and patient care.
* <https://www.cddft.nhs.uk/> - This is the official website of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, which is relevant to the investigation and response following Leigh Rodgers' death.