In 1975, Peterson ([1]) wrote an article on the hazards of myelography, published in the journal Radiology.

He stated:

"Air is completely absorbed without producing long-term side effects. **Lipiodol and Pantopaque are not absorbed and residual medium in the spinal canal can cause arachnoiditis**." 

Furthermore, a case report of chronic arachnoiditis after Pantopaque study of the posterior fossa was published by Mortara and Brooks. ([2])

Unknown authors contributed a letter in the British Medical Journal on hyperthyroidism after use of contrast medium. ([3])

Ironically, 1975 also saw the publication of a paper on the use of myelography to diagnose the very condition it causes! Jorgensen et al. ([4]) published a classification of the myelographic appearance of arachnoiditis, which was to be used by many clinicians subsequently.

They divided the condition into two Types, I, the

"empty thecal sac";
and 2,

"localised or diffuse filling defects".

The authors noted:

"The assumed cause of arachnoiditis was, in more than half of the cases, the combination of myelography and operation in close relation."


