

Information for Patients and Carers

Radiology Post-Extravasation Aftercare

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

Patient Name: _____

Date of extravasation: _____

Contrast agent used: _____

Injection site: _____

What is extravasation?

Extravasation is the leakage of drugs or contrast media from the vein into the surrounding tissues. This leaflet is designed to provide information for patients who have had an extravasation following an injection of intravenous contrast media (x-ray dye).

What are the side effects of extravasation?

Extravasation can cause bruising with stinging, swelling, pain and changes to the skin at the site of the injection. This may last for several days and can result in local tissue damage. In most cases the damage is not permanent and will resolve within 24 hours.

Immediate treatment?

The radiographer will have given you the appropriate recommended treatment as soon as the extravasation was detected. This may have included applying pressure to the area and elevating your affected arm. The radiographer may also have applied a cold compress and applied a dressing or bandage.

Things to be aware of

You must seek medical attention from your GP or the Emergency Department if you experience any of the following:

- Increased pain which is not eased by pain killers
- Increased swelling of your arm or hand
- Changes in colour of your arm or hand
- Pins and needles or altered sensation in your arm or hand
- Blistering, peeling or flaking close to the injection site

Please take this leaflet with you should you seek help from your GP or the Emergency Department.

If you are an Inpatient, and experience any of the symptoms listed above, please show this leaflet to the staff on the ward either on returning to the ward after your scan, or as soon as they appear.

Is there anything else I need to do?

Usually, the extravasation is just a minor injury that does not require further treatment; however, you can help to reduce any pain experienced by:

- Gently massaging the affected area
- Elevating the arm if it is swollen
- Applying a cold compress for up to 15 minutes at a time up to 4 times during the first 24 hours. Do not apply an ice pack directly to the skin
- Taking over the counter pain killers
- Avoiding tight-fitting clothes around the affected area

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact us on **01772 523547** between the hours of 7.30am-8pm.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolem@LHTR.nhs.uk

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Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support

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