

Managing contrast extravasation (Tissuing) following a CT/MRI examination

Information for patients

This leaflet provides information to patients where contrast extravasation has occurred following a CT/MRI examination.

What is extravasation?

Contrast (x-ray dye) is usually administered through a cannula which will have been placed in a vein in your arm/hand. On rare occasions, contrast can leak into surrounding tissues; this is known as extravasation or 'tissuing'.

What happens next?

If this has happened, you will experience a stinging sensation where the contrast has gone into the tissue and it can be painful. This will usually wear off after about 30 minutes. The radiographer will remove the cannula and will apply a cold compress and your arm/hand will be elevated. You may also have some swelling of the arm or hand.

If the extravasation is severe, a doctor will examine you before you leave the department and advise you if any further treatment is necessary.

Sometimes you may need another injection of contrast and if necessary, this will be discussed with you.

Is there anything I can do at home?

- Keep your arm elevated as much as possible until the swelling has gone down
- Use an ice-pack or a bag of frozen vegetables wrapped in a clean tea towel over the site. Never place ice directly on skin as it may cause frostbite, and do not leave it on for more than 15 minutes at a time
- Firm massage of the affected area will help to disperse the contrast
- If the area is painful, take your usual painkillers.

Is there anything I need to look out for?

In most cases this is a minor injury and does not require any treatment. However, in a small number of cases the injury is more severe and you will need to seek medical attention.

Important:

If you experience any of the following symptoms please see your GP or attend your local A&E department for advice and take this leaflet with you.

- The pain becomes more severe and there is increased swelling of the arm or hand
- There are “pins and needles” or altered sensation in the arm or hand
- The arm or hand changes in colour
- There is blistering or ulceration of the skin around the injection site.

To be completed by CT/MR Radiographer

Contrast agent	Time and Date	Amount of extravasation	Site of extravasation

Who should I contact if I have a problem or question?

Please call the CT scanning department on 01895 279326, between 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

What should I do in case of an emergency?

See your GP or attend your local A&E department for advice and take this leaflet with you.

Languages/ Alternative Formats

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format.

Please contact: 01895 279973

Fadlan waydii haddii aad warbixintan ku rabto luqad ama hab kale. Fadlan la xidhiidh
01895 279 973

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ਕਰਕੇ ਪਤਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ 01895 279973 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ

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Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie
audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem informacji pacjenta (patient
information) pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973.

如果你需要這些資料的其他語言版本、大字体、或音頻格式，請致電01895 279 973 查詢。

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يرجى
الاتصال بالرقم التالي 01895279973 .