

# Radiology IV Contrast Extravasation

An information guide



# Radiology IV Contrast Extravasation

Intravenous (IV) contrast (a colourless liquid that shows up on x-ray) has leaked under your skin at the injection site. Most of the time, this is not a serious problem.

You can help decrease your chance of injury by doing the following:

- Raise your arm above the level of the heart, as much as you can, until the swelling goes down.
- Or the first 24 hours, apply light pressure to the swollen area for 15 minutes every 1 to 2 hours until the swelling goes down.

Swelling or redness of the IV site can last for 1 to 2 days. It is common to feel a dull ache at the site.

The contrast will slowly be absorbed back into your system and then disappear. Your arm should return to normal within 2 to 3 days.

## **Over the next few days you should:**

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Apply a cold compress to the injection site 1 to 3 times a day.
- Take your usual painkillers for any localised pain.

Any swelling, pain or bruising could get worse before it gets better.

## **When to call your doctor**

- Numbness or tingling of the lower arm or hand.
- Redness or streaks at the injection site.
- Blisters at the site.
- Increased pain that does not get better over time.
- Coolness of the lower arm or hand.
- Any increase in the size of your arm.
- Any hard swelling that is still present after 2 days.

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**


**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

 [www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group](http://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group)

 Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAlliance\_NHS

**Date of publication: April 2014**

**Date of review: November 2021**

**Date of next review: November 2023**

**Ref: PI(DS)820**

© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group

[www.pat.nhs.uk](http://www.pat.nhs.uk)

[www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk](http://www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk)

