

Contrast Injection Leak (extravasation)

What is extravasation?

Contrast dyes are usually given to patients having an MRI or CT scan by injecting into a vein in the arm or hand. Occasionally the fluid may leak out from the vein and into the surrounding tissues – this is known as extravasation.

Treatment

In most cases, extravasation is a minor injury and does not require any treatment. Associated bruising can be expected at the injection site. If there is pain and swelling the RICE Method (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) can be employed at home. Take usual pain relief if required.

When to seek Medical Advice

- Please see General Practitioner if you are concerned or have any of the following:
- Severe pain which is not controlled by painkillers
- Increase swelling of the arm or hand
- Increased change in colour of the arm or hand
- Pins and needles or altered sensation in arm or hand
- Blistering or ulceration of the skin around injection site.

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Please submit referrals via

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*Please indicate appropiate item number & description on the referral

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