

What is contrast extravasation and how will it affect me?

Contrast extravasation is when CT, MRI or X-Ray contrast leaks out of your vein into surrounding tissue. This causes a swelling in the area around your IV site. You might have slight discomfort.

Follow-up care is the key part of your treatment and safety. Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if you have problems.

How can I care for myself at home?

Activity

- Avoid physical activity involving affected area for 24 hours.

Special Instructions

- Raise affected area above the heart, as tolerated.
- Apply ice packs for 10-20 minutes every hour, 3 times, and as needed after that as symptoms continue. Do not place ice packs directly on skin. Place a layer of cloth between the ice pack and the skin.

When should I seek urgent medical attention?

- Swelling or pain that have gotten worse
- Affected area or extremity is blue or cold
- Tingling, numbness or loss of sensation in affected body part
- Blistering of the skin at the site of the extravasation
- Decreasing ability to move affected body part

Where should I go for urgent medical attention?

- Your closest Emergency Department

When should I call 911?

Call 911 anytime you think you need emergency care, or if you have any of the following:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pains
- Loss of consciousness (if you passed out or fainted)

When should I call the Radiology Nurses?

Call the Radiology nurses if you have any questions.

What is the number to call?

- Between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday call the Radiology Nursing Station at 734-936-4515
- After hours, on weekends or holidays call the Radiology Superchief at 734-936-6267, pager 1800.

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