

Contrast extravasation

Patient information sheet

The contrast agent used for your CT / MRI examination today has leaked outside of the vein into the surrounding tissues.

This uncommon complication has been treated by our staff to minimise the discomfort and any long term effects.

You may have noticed pain and swelling at the injection site. An ice pack or cold compress has been applied to reduce the swelling. A mark may have been drawn around the area of swelling.

You will be monitored in the department for at least one hour to ensure that the complication is resolving. A doctor will see you before you leave.

You may have a pressure bandage applied before you leave to help reduce the swelling further.

Please do not leave the pressure bandage on overnight.

To aid your recovery over the next 24 - 48 hours:

- You may continue to apply a cold compress to reduce the swelling.
- A mild painkiller maybe taken if required.
- Do not apply any creams or moisturisers unless instructed by a doctor.
- Avoid wearing tight clothes over the area.
- Please do not leave the pressure bandage on overnight.

The contrast is water soluble and will be absorbed by your body – this may take a couple of days. During this time please check the area for the following:

- Has the area changed in colour or increased in size (extended beyond the line drawn)?
- Is the area blistering, peeling or flaking?
- Has the area become more uncomfortable?
- Is the pain making it difficult to move your hand or arm?

If you have answered 'yes' to any of the questions contact your GP or closest A&E department with the details overleaf.

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Large print copies and alternative language versions of this leaflet can be made available on request.

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Royal Papworth Hospital imaging department

_____mls of _____ an iodine / gadolinium based contrast medium has extravasated in the _____

I have received the following treatment for my symptoms:

A member of our team will be in contact over the next few days to check that your symptoms have resolved. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to call 01223 638404 (CT) or 01223 638600 (MRI) between 09:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00 Monday to Friday.

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