

Contrast Media

Extravasation

Contrast media (dye) is used to highlight certain areas of the body and is usually given by injection into a vein. Sometimes the contrast leaks out of the vein and into the tissues under the skin. This leak is known as extravasation.

Call your healthcare provider or go to your nearest Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- severe pain
- worsening pain that does not go away
- numbness, tingling or loss of feeling
- decreased range of motion
- burning or peeling
- redness or change in colour
- coolness of lower arm or hand
- any increase in the size of your arm.

For 24 hour professional health advice and information, call:



What will I see or feel?

- You may feel tightness and stinging or pain where the contrast has leaked into the tissues.
- You may see swelling and redness in the area.

What do I do?

- If you have swelling or discomfort, use a cold pack on the affected area for 10 to 15 minutes at a time to reduce swelling. Reapply as needed.
 Wrap the cold pack in a towel. Do not place ice directly on skin as this may cause tissue damage.
- Raise your arm above the level of your heart, to help reduce swelling.
- If you have pain, take your usual pain medication as directed on the package or as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- Watch that your symptoms are getting better and that no new symptoms develop over the next 24 hours.

Take this form with you if you need to see a healthcare provider or go to an Emergency Department.

To be completed by Medical Imaging:

Contrast Agent	Date and Time	Amount of contrast extravasated	Amount of saline extravasated	Site of extravasation

