



Contrast Extravasation

Patient Information Sheet

Unfortunately while having your scan today, the vein in your arm has leaked during the injection of contrast medium (x-ray dye). This is a known complication but rarely leads to any significant problems. Some of the contrast is now in the surrounding tissues of your arm. Your body will absorb this over the next few days.

You may feel mild stinging, burning or pain in your arm, although many patients do not experience any discomfort at all. The contrast medium itself is not toxic to your tissues, but because of the quantity of the contrast required for the scan, some local swelling may occur.

It is important that you rest with your arm elevated where possible for the next 24 hours, and if sore apply an ice or heat-pack and take some pain killers. Try using some cushions or pillows to raise the affected limb.

Bruising may occur and will settle quicker if the arm is elevated.

However, if you notice any of the following please attend your nearest Emergency Department promptly for review and take this letter with you:

- skin blistering
- altered sensation in your arm or hand e.g. pins and needles
- numbness in your arm
- increasing or persistent pain after four hours from the injection
- a tense dusky forearm or colour change to your hand
- inability to move your elbow, wrist or hand.

Contrast Agent	Date and Time	Amount of contrast Extravasated	Site of Extravasation
Omnipaque 300			
Omnipaque 350			
Visipaque 320			

For further advice during the Radiology Department's normal working hours (8.30am-5pm) please contact our staff by telephoning (01851) 708224. During out of hours contact your GP or Emergency Department.

We are listening – how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

Disclaimer

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