

This leaflet provides information for patients who have had leakage from their veins into their soft tissues during an infusion or injection of medicine or fluids.

What is extravasation?

Extravasation is the leakage of drugs outside of the vein and into the surrounding tissues. With some drugs this can cause an immediate painful reaction and may result in local tissue damage.

You may have noticed pain, swelling, redness or other changes to the skin at the site of drug administration, or the nurse may have noticed that the drug was not flowing in easily.

In most cases extravasation will be noticed by the nurse giving your medicine but very rarely an extravasation may not be noticed. Therefore if you experience any redness, swelling, heat or pain around the site during or after your hospital stay you should alert the nurse caring for you or at home contact your G.P.

If you have been treated on Ricky Grant Day Unit or Turner Ward then please contact 01803 655219 immediately.

What happens if this occurs?

If extravasation does occur the nurse will stop the injection / infusion immediately and start following the extravasation guidelines.

The area that is affected will be marked with a pen so that any changes can be observed e.g. if any redness increases or decreases.

The limb may be photographed.

The cannula will be removed and a cream may be applied to reduce any inflammation and to make the area more comfortable.

A hot or cold compress (depending on the medicine that has leaked out of the vein) will be applied and the limb affected will be elevated.

One of the doctors or specialist nursing team caring for you will be asked to review the affected site.

Going home after an extravasation.

Continue with any instructions your doctor has given you e.g. continue applying your cream as directed.

Look out for worsening or new pain, redness, swelling, blistering, ulceration or a change in skin colour around the affected area.

Gently exercise the affected arm or hand unless advised not to.

Do not apply any creams, ointments or lotions unless advised to.

Avoid wearing tight clothing around the affected area.

Ensure you attend any follow up appointments you have been given

Warning Signs:

- Redness or swelling
- Pain (worsening or new)
- Blistering
- Ulceration
- Change in skin colour
- Pins & needles / change in sensation

Useful Contacts

Medicines Information Torbay
Pharmacy Department:

01803 6555304

Turner Ward/Ricky Grant Day Unit
Telephone Triage Service:

01803 655219

Contact details

 TorbayAndSouthDevonFT

 @TorbaySDevonNHS

www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/



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PATIENT INFORMATION

Identifying & Treating Extravasation

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.