



York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Extravasation

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

The Magnolia Centre

York Hospital

Wigginton Road

York

YO31 8HE

Telephone: 01904 726516

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Introduction

This booklet has been written to provide you with information about extravasation if you are on intravenous chemotherapy. It is not designed to replace the discussion between you and the nursing team treating you but to help you understand more about what is being discussed.

What is Extravasation?

Extravasation is the leakage (or accidental infiltration) of drugs outside of the vein and into the surrounding tissues. With some drugs this may lead to an immediate painful reaction and result in local tissue damage.

You may have noticed pain, stinging, swelling 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.

Why does it happen?

Extravasation is rare but is a known complication of having intravenous chemotherapy. It may be difficult to prevent this even though we take all possible precautions. The important thing is that it has been detected and treated.

Why is extravasation a problem?

Extravasation can lead to pain, stiffness and tissue damage.

What treatment have I received to prevent tissue damage?

The nurse has given you the recommended treatment for the extravasation. Although this will help you to minimise the chance of developing further problems, you will need to keep checking the area every day. You may be asked to return to the hospital for a review with a chemotherapy nurse/doctor to monitor the extravasation.

How do I check the area?

Once a day, check the area for the following;

- Has the area changed colour or increased in redness?
- Is the area blistering, peeling or flaking?
- Is the area more uncomfortable?
- Is the pain making it difficult for you to exercise your arm or hand?

If you have answered **YES** to any of the questions above or if you have any other concerns, please contact us;

**York Chemotherapy Department 01904 726516
or Ward 31 01904 726031**

**Scarborough Chemotherapy Department- 01723
342447**

**Out of hours (after 5PM, nights or weekend) Ward 31
01904 726031.**

What else do I need to do?

- Gently exercise the affected arm or hand
- Take mild painkillers if required
- Do not apply lotions, creams or ointments unless you have been instructed to do so by a Doctor or a Nurse
- Do not expose the area to strong sunlight
- Avoid wearing tight clothing around the affected area
- Protect the affected area when bathing (or showering) so that it doesn't get wet if any open areas

Additional treatment recommended by the hospital

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Your appointment date to review the affected areas

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Glossary of Medical Terms

Intravenous Chemotherapy – Chemotherapy given into a vein

Extravasation – leakage (or accidental infiltration) of drugs outside the vein and into the surrounding tissues.

About this information

This guide is provided for general information only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice. Every effort is taken to ensure that this information is accurate and consistent with current knowledge and practice at the time of publication.

Further Information and Support

We hope that this booklet answers most of your questions but, if you have further queries or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us

Chemotherapy Nursing Team in the Magnolia Centre
01904 726516

Oncology & Haematology Inpatient Unit - Ward 31
01904 726031

Scarborough Chemotherapy Unit- 01723 342447

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Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact SACT Chemotherapy Team. Telephone 01904 726516

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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