

Radiology IV Contrast Extravasation

Intravenous (IV) contrast has leaked under your skin at the injection site. This is rarely a serious problem. There are two things you can do to help speed up the recovery.

1. Raise your arm above the level of the heart, as much as you can, until the swelling goes down.
2. For the first 6 hours, apply light pressure to the swollen area for 1 minute every half hour or until the swelling goes down.

Swelling or redness of the IV site can last for 1 to 2 days. It is common to feel a dull ache at the site.

The contrast will slowly be absorbed back into your circulation. Then your body will get rid of it. Your arm should return to normal within 2 to 3 days.

When to Call

Call your doctor or the Radiology Department if you notice any of the following.

1. Numbness or tingling of the lower arm or hand.
2. Redness or streaks at the injection site.
3. Blisters at the site.
4. Increased pain that does not get better over time.
5. Unusual coolness of the lower arm or hand beyond the incision site.
6. Any increase in the size of your arm.

Who to Call

Call Radiology, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at **(608) 263-9729**. Ask to be connected with the Radiology Charge Nurse.

After hours, weekends, or holidays, call **(608) 262-2122**. This phone number will connect you to the paging operator. Ask for the Radiology Resident on call. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

If you live out of the area, please call **1-800-323-8942**.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 10/2024 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5439.