

IODINATED CONTRAST EXTRAVASATION PROTOCOL:

INITIAL TREATMENT:

- 1) Notify radiologist
- 2) Elevate affected extremity above the heart
- 3) Apply ice packs (15-60 min applications TID/QID x 1-3 days)
- 4) Short observation for large volume extravasation
- 5) Notify referring physician for large volume extravasation

PRIMARY CARE/EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REFERRAL FOR FOLLOWING:

- 1) Volume greater than 30cc for conventional ionic or 100cc of nonionic contrast
- 2) Skin blistering
- 3) Altered tissue perfusion (decreased capillary refill over or distal to injection site)
- 4) Increasing pain over 2-4 hours
- 5) Change in sensation distal to site of extravasation
- 6) If immediate referral required, radiologist will notify ER and send patient to ER

PATIENT TO CALL PRIMARY MD FOR THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- 1) Residual pain
- 2) Blistering
- 3) Redness or other skin color change
- 4) Hardness
- 5) Increased or decreased temperature of skin at extravasation site
- 6) Change in sensation

DOCUMENTATION

- 1) Document the procedure, estimated size of extravasation, and site of extravasation using PACS note for sites with PACs or with the procedure paperwork that is given to the radiologist.
- 2) Document on hospital incident report form

CONTRAST EXTRAVASATION - PATIENT INFORMATION

Today you had an imaging procedure which required the administration of contrast agent or (dye). Some of this agent infiltrated under the skin or into the surrounding tissue at the IV site. This may cause swelling, redness, pain, or tissue damage.

To minimize symptoms, use cold compresses 3 to 4 times a day for periods of 15 to 60 minutes for the next 24 to 48 hours or until the symptoms resolve. Use a wet washcloth placed in a zip lock baggie to make the compress. Place it in freezer. When applying the compress, use a dry washcloth between your skin and the compress to protect your skin. Elevate the affected extremity while the compress is in place.

If pain at the site increases or if skin condition worsens (blisters, numbness, change in skin color, or increased swelling), contact your personal physician. If you are unable to contact your personal physician, contact the Nurse On Call if your health plan offers this service. If a Nurse On Call service is not available to you, come to your Urgent Care Center or Emergency Department.