

Care if there was a leak of contrast liquid during your scan or X-ray (extravasation)

Radiology Department
Information for Patients

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Why have I been given this leaflet?

You had an injection of contrast liquid into a vein during a CT scan, MRI scan, or X-ray test. Some of the contrast liquid leaked out of the vein and under your skin around it. This is called **contrast extravasation**.

This leaflet tells you what this means and what you should do next.

How will this affect me?

Symptoms you may get at the site of the injection include:

- a cool feeling.
- a lighter colour of the skin.
- swelling.
- tenderness or discomfort.
- burning or stinging pain.
- redness of the skin.

Some symptoms will wear off after a few hours.

Other symptoms, such as discomfort, stinging and swelling, can last for a few days.

Do not worry, as it does not usually cause any problems.

Why has this happened?

The small flexible tube used for the injection may have passed through your vein. This is more likely if your veins are small or delicate.

How is it treated?

We will:

- put a cold compress over the area straight away, and
- lift your arm.

This helps with the swelling.

We may need to keep checking your arm while you are still with us. This is usually for at least 15 minutes but could be longer. We will tell you when you can go home.

What do I need to look out for when I get home?

Some bruising and swelling are normal.

Contact your GP, urgent care centre, or call NHS 111 to get advice urgently if:

- the swelling does not get better.
- the swelling gets worse.

Go to the Emergency Department straight away if you have:

(in Leicester, go to **Leicester Royal Infirmary**)

- skin turning bluish in colour.
- an open sore or ulcer on the skin.
- your skin turns red or blisters.
- loss of feeling (numbness), tingling, or pins and needles in the arm.
- pain that is getting worse or lasts more than **4 hours**.

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice
Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

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If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research