

Care at home after chemotherapy leaks from a vein

There is a chance that some of the chemotherapy that you received today leaked out of your vein and under your skin. When chemotherapy leaks under the skin it can cause skin irritation, sores or deeper tissue injury. The medical term for this is extravasation.

Name of the chemotherapy drug that may have leaked: _____.

Call your Doctor or Nurse (Primary team) if you:

- Notice any changes in the area, increasing pain or redness, blisters, streaking along the arm, swelling or any sign of skin breakdown.
- Develop a fever of 38°C (100°F) or higher.
- Have any questions or concerns.

Special points:

- Do not apply any lotion, cream, or ointments to the area unless instructed to do so by your nurse or doctor.
- Do not expose the area to sunlight.
- Do not wear clothing that is tight and constricts the area.
- Protect the area with a waterproof dressing if it is to be immersed or get wet.

Please turn over for instructions on what you need to do to care for your skin and lessen the discomfort and irritation.



Care at home after chemotherapy leaks from a vein

Your nurse will check the boxes that you need to do	Time	How it will help
<input type="checkbox"/> Put a cold compress over the area where the needle went in 4 to 5 times a day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for 15 to 20 minutes. • Do this for the next 24 to 48 hours. 		Decrease swelling, discomfort and may reduce irritation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Put a warm compress over the area where the needle went in 4 to 5 times a day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for 15 to 20 minutes. • Do this for the next 24 to 48 hours. 		Decrease swelling, discomfort and may reduce the irritation
<input type="checkbox"/> Keep your arm raised on a pillow as much as possible.		Reduce swelling.
<input type="checkbox"/> After showering or bathing, gently pat dry the area with a towel. Do not rub. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only, rapidly running clean water should touch the area. • If you take a tub bath or immerse the area in water, cover the area first with a protective watertight dressing. 		Protects the area while it heals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Apply a thin layer of hydrocortisone cream (%1) 2 times a day until the redness goes away. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do this in the morning and in the evening. • Apply a dry gauze pad loosely over the cream to protect your clothes. • Stop the cream if the area blisters. 		Reduce redness and inflammation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Apply a thin layer using a Q-tip of dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) 99% solution to the area once and then apply again. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow to air dry. • Do not cover. • Repeat 4 times throughout the day. • Do this for 7 days. 		May help reduce skin damage.

Special instructions

Follow up schedule

Day	Date
1	
2	
3	
5	
7	
14	
21	
28	
As needed	