

EXTRAVASATION

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

This information was correct at the time of printing. While the Trust makes every reasonable effort to keep its information leaflets up to date, very recent changes may not yet be reflected in the guidance and you should discuss this with the clinical staff at the time of your appointment.

www.sunderland.nhs.uk/chs

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City Hospitals Sunderland

Chemotherapy/Haematology Day Unit

Sunderland Royal Hospital

Potential problems

When you receive your chemotherapy through a drip into your vein there is a risk of a problem called extravasation.

An extravasation is when there is a leakage of the fluid or drug from the vein into the surrounding tissues. If you do develop an extravasation you would feel pain, discomfort or a burning sensation around the cannula, sometimes a swelling, leaking of fluid or redness may also be seen. The extent of the reaction depends upon the type of chemotherapy drug you are receiving.

Your nurse will be monitoring for these symptoms while you have your treatment. However, it is very important that you inform your nurse immediately if you experience any of the symptoms mentioned above either when you are having your treatment, or when you return home.

If an extravasation were to happen your treatment would be stopped immediately and your nurse will take appropriate action to treat this. The nurse will mark the area with a marker pen in order that we can observe how well the extravasation improves. Depending on the type of chemotherapy you are receiving, a hot or cold pad will be applied or you may be referred to a plastic surgeon for advice or treatment.

In most instances extravasation is noticed by the nurse during administration of your chemotherapy but very rarely an extravasation may not be noticed. Therefore, if you experience any redness, swelling, heat or pain around the site of where the cannula has been once you return home, please contact the Chemotherapy and Haematology Day Unit or E55 if it is outside of normal working hours.

Thankfully the incidence of extravasation is rare but can be quite severe, it is therefore extremely important to inform staff if you have any concerns.

Advice on discharge

Your nurse will discuss any advice you **may** need prior to your discharge and this **may** include:

- To apply hot or cold packs regularly to the area.
- To take analgesia once you are discharged home, as the area may be sore for a few days.
- To return to the Chemotherapy and Haematology Day Unit the next day for the nurse to check that the symptoms have improved.

If the extravasation injury does not improve or becomes worse you should contact the Chemotherapy and Haematology Day Unit.

Tel 5699822 between 08.30am to 7pm Monday to Friday

Saturday Mornings 08.30am to 2.30pm.

Outside of the above hours, please ring E55 Tel 5699855.