

Chemotherapy Extravasation Care

About Extravasation

You get your chemotherapy (chemo) through a vein in your arm or a port in your chest. Rarely, a chemo drug may leak out of the vein or port into the surrounding tissue. This is called extravasation.

Some chemo drugs can damage the skin and tissue near the leak. The chemo drug may cause these problems:

- Skin irritation
- Redness
- Swelling
- Blisters
- Wounds that are hard to heal

How to Care for a Possible Extravasation

- Put [hot] [cold] (circle one) compresses on the affected area. Do this four to five times daily for the next 48 hours. Do not leave compresses on for more than 20 minutes at a time.
- If this happened in your arm, keep it raised on a pillow as much as possible. This will help with swelling and pain.
- Do not bathe or soak the affected area. You may shower with mild soap. Pat the area dry.
- Your care team may tell you to put medicine on the area. Do not use any other lotion, cream, or ointment on it.
- Do not massage the area.
- Keep the area covered when you are outside. Do not expose it to sunlight.
- Do not wear tight clothing or jewelry over the area.

When to Call for Help

Call your care team right away if you have any of these things happen:

- Pain, burning, redness, or swelling gets worse
- Hard to move arm
- Any sign of blisters or fluid drainage
- Numbness, tingling, or changes in how your hand or arm feels
- Skin warm or hot to the touch
- Fever higher than 100.4° F (38°C) degrees

Follow-Up Instructions

Your care team may set up an appointment to check your skin.

Questions? Contact your cancer care team via MyChart or call _____.

In an emergency, call 911 or go to your closest emergency department.