

Extravasation Care for Cancer Patients

A rare, but known, complication of cancer systemic therapy (also called chemotherapy or chemo) is extravasation. This happens when a chemo drug leaks out of the vein and under the skin.

Some of the chemo you got today may have leaked out of your vein. Some chemo can cause skin rash, sores, or other damage.

A Cancer Nurse will call you to see how you are. You will be called 48 hours after your chemo and on days 5, 7 and 14.

It is important for you to care for your skin using these instructions:

- Put a cold warm clean compress on the affected area for 15 to 20 minutes, at least 4 times a day for the next 24 to 48 hours.
- Raise your arm on a pillow, as much as you can, for the next 24 to 48 hours.
- Keep the area clean and dry.
- After a shower or bath, gently pat the area dry. Never rub the area.

Watch the area, call your Cancer Doctor or Nurse, right away, if you have:

- More pain
- Swelling
- Redness
- Blisters
- Skin breakdown
- If you have a fever, follow the instructions on the yellow “Fever Card”
- Use pain medication as shown on the label.
- Keep the area away from sunlight.

- Wear loose clothes over the area.
- Do not use creams or ointments, unless your Cancer Doctor or Nurse tells you to.
- You may put dry gauze loosely over the area.

Before you leave the clinic, ask your Cancer Doctor or Nurse any questions you have about extravasation.

What are your questions? Please ask. We are here to help you.



Looking for more health information?

Find this brochure and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.

Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

Nova Scotia Health Authority

www.nshealth.ca

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The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only.

The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider. The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.