Phlebitis

Phlebitis is a redness, tenderness and soreness (*inflammation*) in a vein. This can occur in your arms, legs, or torso (trunk), as well as deeper inside your body. This condition results in redness, tenderness, and firmness along the course of the vein. This problem is most often caused by local injury, IV drugs or medication, or prolonged bed rest.

You should rest and keep the affected area elevated until your symptoms get better. Put warm moist packs on the inflamed vein for 20 minutes, 3 to 4 times every day. Medicines to reduce inflammation and pain will also speed recovery.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have unusual bruising or any bleeding problems.
- Swelling or pain in your affected arm or leg is not gradually improving.
- You are on anti-inflammatory medication and you develop belly (*abdominal*) pain.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- An unexplained oral temperature above 100.5º F (38.1º C) develops.
- You have sudden onset of chest pain or difficulty breathing.

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