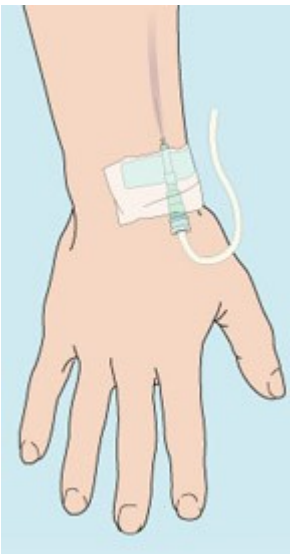
Contrast Infiltration
Home Instructions

Sometimes fluid from your IV leaks under your skin. This is called an infiltration.

CAUSE:

- You had pictures taken of a body part.
- An IV was started in your arm.
- Contrast (x-ray dye) was put into your IV. Your IV leaked under your skin.
- The leak made your arm swollen and puffy. The swelling should go away in 1 to 2 days.
- Your arm may be sore for 5 to 7 days.



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Put an ice pack on the swollen area until the swelling goes down. Place the ice pack on the swollen area 4 times a day for 10 minutes at a time.
  - Put ice in a plastic bag.
  - Wrap the bag in a towel or cloth.
- Keep the swollen area above your chest as much as you can until the swelling goes down. Your arm can be propped on at least 3 to 4 pillows.
- Avoid tight fitting clothing, watches or jewelry near the swollen area.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- The skin around the place where the needle was put in becomes darker and peels.
- You have red streaks on your skin from the place where the needle was put in.
- Pus comes out from the place where the needle was put in.
- You have an oral temperature of 102° F (38.9° C).

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

Easy-to-Read style based on content from Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, Texas

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