

# EXTRAVASATION OF AN ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENT - ADULTS

Keep this document until your extravasation is resolved.

## HOME CARE AND CUSTOMARY GUIDELINES FOR EXTRAVASATION

During the administration of your treatment on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), a medication called \_\_\_\_\_ (name of medication) leaked from the vein. This is known as an extravasation.

Here are a few tips you can follow to reduce discomfort or irritation:

Apply a **dry, cold compress** on the site specified by the nurse.

Number of days: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: 4 times a day (morning, noon, dinner time, end of evening).

Duration: Leave the dry compress on the site for 20 to 30 minutes.

The compress must be cold and dry. You can insert ice into a waterproof bag such as a Ziploc® or use an ice pack or a frozen pea bag. Cover the object with a dry cloth (e.g., a towel) so that your skin is not in direct contact with cold or humidity.

Apply a **dry, lukewarm compress** on the site specified by the nurse.

Number of days: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: 4 times a day (morning, noon, dinner time, end of evening).

Duration: Leave the dry compress on the site for 20 to 30 minutes.

The compress must be lukewarm and dry. You can heat a moist facecloth or a thermotherapeutic pack such as a Magic Bag® in the microwave oven for a few seconds. You can also put a facecloth, wet in lukewarm water, in a Ziploc® waterproof bag.

Do **not** apply a compress.

Apply the **DMSO** as indicated in the user information sheet provided by the nurse.

A nurse at the clinic will call you to ensure the follow-up.

## IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS

1. Do not rub or scratch the affected site.
2. After **showering**, gently blot the affected site to dry it. Do not rub.
3. If you have a **bath** or do household chores, avoid getting the affected site wet. If you get it wet, rinse the site with clean tap water and gently pat it dry.
4. Do not apply lotion, cream or ointment on the affected site without first speaking to a nurse.
5. Do not expose the affected site to sunlight.
6. Never wear anything that can irritate or chafe the affected site:
  - Clothes that tighten around the affected site;
  - Elastic sleeves, watches or bracelets if the affected site is on the arm or hand;
  - Suspenders if the affected site is located on the chest.
7. If the extravasation site is on the arm, keep the arm slightly raised (as much as possible) and move it often over the next 48 hours.

## WHEN TO CONSULT

Contact the nurse **as soon as possible** if you notice:

- Onset of or increasing pain
- Onset of or increasing redness
- Onset of itching
- Presence of a skin lesion (blister)
- Skin breakdown
- Presence of discharge
- Swelling
- Difficulty moving the hand, wrist, elbow or shoulder of the arm where the extravasation occurred

Notify the nurse and go to the emergency department if you have:

- Fever of 38.3 °C (101 °F) once.

OR

- Fever of 38 °C (100.4 °F) twice within a one-hour interval.

Nurse's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number and extension: \_\_\_\_\_