

## Patient information

### Computerised Tomography (CT) Scan X-ray Dye Leakage

#### Imaging Department

#### CT scan / X-ray Dye Leakage

During your CT scan today some of the X-ray dye (contrast) leaked into the tissue underneath your skin.

Contrast dyes that are given to patients having a CT scan are usually given by injection into a vein in your arm or hand. Occasionally the injection may leak out from the vein to the tissues under the skin – this is known as extravasation.

If this has happened, you will experience a stinging sensation where the contrast has gone into the tissue, and it can be painful. This will usually wear off after about 30 minutes.

You may also notice the area is slightly swollen and your skin feels tight.

A bruise may appear in the next 24 - 48 hours, all of this is quite normal.

Sometimes you may need another injection of contrast and if necessary, this will be discussed with you.

Dr \_\_\_\_\_ from radiology examined you before you left the department and feels you will be fine to go home or back to your ward.

#### Is there anything I can do at home?

Massage the area where the contrast has gone into the tissue.

#### If there is swelling:

- Elevate the affected arm as much as possible. You should continue to do this until the swelling has gone down.
- Use an ice-pack or a bag of frozen vegetables wrapped in a clean tea towel over the site.
- Never place ice directly on skin as it may cause frostbite, and do not leave it on for more than 15 minutes at a time.

## **Is there anything I need to look out for?**

In most cases this is a minor injury and does not require any treatment. However, in a small number of cases the injury is more severe, and you will need to seek medical attention.

## **Important**

If you experience any of the following symptoms, you should seek advice from your family doctor (GP) or attend your local Emergency Department (A&E) and take this leaflet with you:

- The pain becomes more severe and is not controlled by simple painkillers.
- There is increased swelling of the arm or hand.
- The arm or hand changes in colour.
- There are pins and needles or altered sensation in the arm or hand.
- There is blistering or ulceration of the skin around the injection site.

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further Information**

**We do not expect you to have any further problems. However if you are at all worried or require further advice contact the CT department.**

**Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm**

**Tel: 0151 706 2751**

**Out of Hours please contact:**

**The Royal Liverpool Hospitals**

**Radiology Department**

**Tel: 0151 706 2753**

**Author: Imaging Department**

**Review date: August 2026**

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والإلكترونية.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字

體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 ( Moon ) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پتوهندیار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پهسهند کراون، نهگمر داوا بکریت له فؤرماتهکانی تردا بریتی له زمانهکانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گهوره، شریتی دهنگ، هیلی موون و نهلیکترونیکی هیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字  
体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.