

# Extravasation

## Leakage of fluid out of a vein

Intravenous chemotherapy drugs can cause irritation to small veins. If your child does not have a central line it will be necessary to give chemotherapy into a small vein in the hand or arm, using a cannula.

If a cannula becomes dislodged, or moves, the chemotherapy may leak into the surrounding tissue causing inflammation. This is called extravasation.

If chemotherapy is being injected or infused into a cannula, the area will be checked for early signs of extravasation, such as pain, redness and swelling. If extravasation occurs it will be treated immediately.

Your child will be asked to keep their arm as still as possible during the infusion. Parents can help by distracting them with calm activities, such as reading to them, television and DVDs. Computer or video games are not a suitable activity at this time.

Extravasation can also happen to central lines and ports but it is less likely. To minimise the risk of this occurring the central line or port is checked prior to use by drawing back blood and/or flushing with normal saline. It is important that you inform the nurse if you think your child's line may have moved.

Occasionally inflammation can occur after your child has gone home. If you are concerned please contact Piam Brown ward or your local shared care hospital.