

Information for patients receiving peripheral vesicant chemotherapy:

Your cancer treatment includes one or more chemotherapy drugs called vesicants. Vesicants are intended to be given into a vein but for various reasons, they sometimes go into the tissue and cause tissue damage. The degree of tissue damage that can occur depends on the vesicant (some cause minor tissue damage while other vesicants can cause major damage), the amount of the vesicant that goes into the tissue, and the location of the IV site.

Your nurse will do everything possible to carefully administer your chemotherapy. You can do the following things to help reduce the chance that a vesicant will leak outside the vein into the tissue and cause tissue damage:

- Before the chemotherapy treatment starts, place things that you may need, such as tissues or water, near your arm that does not have the IV inserted into it. Use this arm to reach for items you need.
- Do not move your hand or arm while a vesicant is being administered.
- Tell your nurse right away if the IV site or surrounding area feels uncomfortable, painful, itchy, or in any way unusual. Let your nurse know as soon as your IV site starts feeling differently. Do not wait to see if the symptoms continue or worsen.
- If you are receiving fluids or a vesicant by IV infusion (dripping in from a bag), make sure that the IV tubing is taped to your arm and place it across your lap instead of having it hang off the side of the bed or chair. If your tubing is accidentally pulled or tugged, let your nurse know immediately so your IV can be checked.
- Wear clothes with short sleeves or sleeves that can be pushed up easily to keep the area from the elbow to the wrist visible to you and the nurse.
- Sometimes more than one ~~at~~ attempt is needed to place an IV device properly and securely into a vein. If there is any doubt about your IV, your nurse will restart it in another area. This is done for your safety.
- Because chemotherapy is harsh on the veins, it is sometimes necessary to insert another type of IV catheter into the arm or chest area in order to complete planned chemotherapy treatments. Your nurse and doctor will discuss this with you if needed.
- Look at your IV site a few hours after you have received your chemotherapy treatment, and look at it again the next day. If you see any swelling or redness, or if the IV site feels warm, tender, or uncomfortable, contact your nurse or doctor right away. Tissue damage from vesicant chemotherapy might not be apparent when chemotherapy is given, but can appear hours to days later.