



# **CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY: IMMEDIATE COMPLICATIONS and NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES**

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# ACUTE INFUSION REACTIONS



## Signs and Symptoms

- Uneasiness or Agitation
- Tightness of chest
- Shortness of Breath
- Hypotension
- Urticaria
- Pruritus
- Fever/ chills
- Tachycardia
- Swelling of tongue/ throat

# ACUTE INFUSION REACTIONS

## Prevention

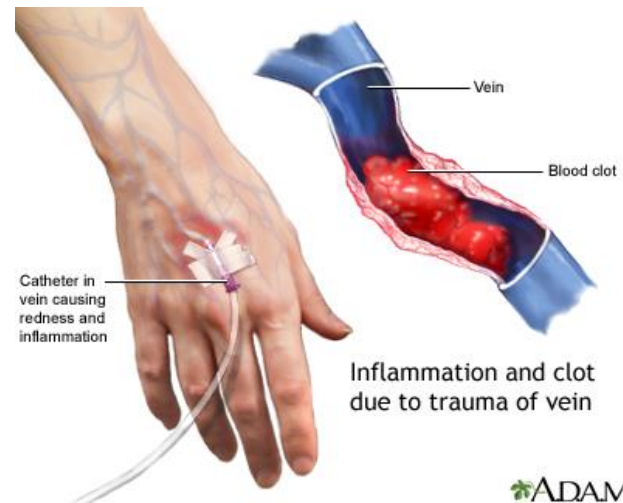
- Obtain Baseline vital signs
- Review Allergy/ies
- Administer Pre- medications
- Ensure availability of emergency equipment
- Instruct patient to report symptoms
- Monitor occurrence of reaction on each treatment
- Avoid administering subsequent dose if patient is considered sensitized.
- Document



# Irritation

Teach the patient to report the following:

- **aching and tightness along a peripheral vein, above the administration site, vein may appear reddened or darkened**
- **development of hard cord along the vein, pain, and temperature elevation**



# FLARE REACTION

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- distinguishable from extravasation by the **lack of pain or swelling** and the presence of a **good blood return** (Hayden & Goodman, 2005)
- A **red blush on the skin** at the periphery of an urticarial lesion seen in immediate hypersensitivity reactions (Mosby's, 2006, p. 743)



# EXTRAVASATION

## Signs and Symptoms

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling
- No Blood Return
- Ulceration



# EXTRAVASATION

## Risk Factors for peripheral veins

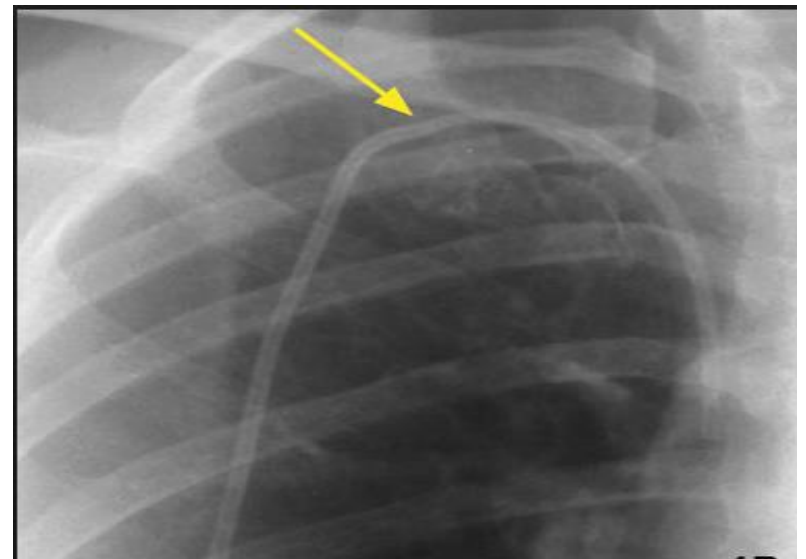
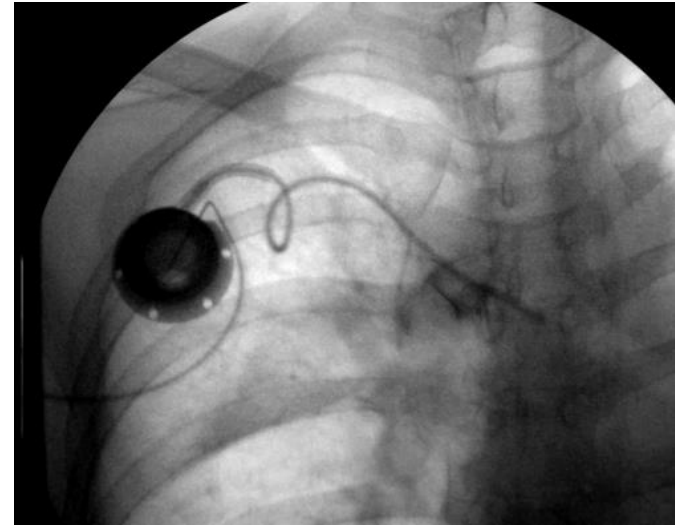
- Small Fragile Veins
- Multiple Venipuncture
- Limited vein Selection
- Inadequately secured IV Line
- Probing during IV insertion



# EXTRAVASATION

## Risk Factors for Venous Access Device

- Difficulty during device insertion
- Deep Implanted ports
- Inadequately Secured non coring needles
- Catheter Migration
- Device Misplacement
- Inadvertent slicing, piercing or nicking of catheter prior to insertion





# EXTRAVASATION

## Initial Management

- Immediately STOP Administration of the chemo drug
- Disconnect IV tubing but do not remove the IV needle/ cannula
- Aspirate residual vesicant from the device
- Assess site for suspected extravasation
- Notify Physician
- Give Antidote as ordered
- Apply compress
  - Icepack- 15-20 min 3-4x a day
  - Warm pack is only used for for plant alkaloids infusion such as vinblastine, vincristine, vindesine and vinorelbine
- Document the incident and management done





Any Questions?

**THANK YOU!**

# Acknowledgement

## **Philippine Oncology Nurses Association, Inc. (PONA)**

Some of the slides were taken from the lectures for the Basic chemotherapy course

Delos Reyes, C.S. (2016). Nursing Care and Patient Education for Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy. Slide presentation.

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