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Reporting Nuclear Medicine Injection Extravasations as Medical Events

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General Comment

I really do feel that the Nuclear Medicine Modality and Radiation Safety is under-represented with this ruling.

As a Nuclear Medicine Technologist with over 15 years experience I have dealt with all kind of issues when starting IV's and using IV's. There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration that are truly outside of the technologists hands, i.e., Chemotherapy Treatment, Medications that cause skin integrity issues, Extremely ill patents, Cognitive functions of a patient, Body Habitus.

That being said, how are we considering this a misadministration if it is of no fault of the technologist who is administering the dose if a vein fails to hold its structure during administration. There have been plenty of occasions where after MANUALLY administering a 2-3cc isotope injection into the IV catheter the vein might give out during the 10cc saline flush.

As far as infiltration or extravasation of the isotope into the surrounding tissue goes the isotopes more readily used during Nuclear Medicine exams is Tc99m that has a half-life of 6hrs and in PET FDG-18 with a half life of 2hrs. I have never in all my years of doing this tremendous and rewarding job have witnessed a "radiation injury" from an infiltration. What is usually instructed to a patient is to hold a warm compress to the area if it even gets to that point being that it is such a small amount of fluid being injected.

It begs to wonder what other modalities should be of more concern with extravasations such as a CT scan that uses a machine (Power Injector) to bolus an large amount of contrast (60-100mL) that can in fact cause Compartment Syndrome (Less severe) and severe injuries include: skin ulceration and tissue necrosis.

Patient care should be TOP priority. Also knowing what all goes into this type of care should be taken into consideration as well.

I think that this ruling should circle back and really do a deep dive into the inner workings of Nuclear Medicine and all that goes into administering doses to our patient population.

Thank you