
Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: IV ACCESS FOR CONTRAST INJECTION

PURPOSE: Define guidelines for appropriate IV access when performing contrast injection

POLICY:

All patients who will be receiving IV contrast for imaging, IV access will be evaluated for appropriate flow rate and PSI prior to power injection.

PROCEDURE:

1. Technologist will confirm IV access is acceptable for power injection.
2. CT technologist will monitor IV access site during power injection when possible.
3. If contrast extravasation occurs, technologist will discontinue the power injection.
4. Technologist will request a radiologist, fellow or resident to evaluate extravasated area.
5. Radiology nurse or technologist will complete a Home Health Care for outpatients.

Acceptable Lines for 3-5ml <300psi

- Power rated triple lumen catheters
- Power rated ports
- Power PICC lines
- Power IV catheters
- Single lumen power rated Cordis sheath in the internal jugular or femoral vein
- Standard 20g – 22g peripheral IV catheter located in an antecubital, upper forearm, wrist or hand.
- 20g -24g power rated Diffusic. 24g Diffusic rated up to 3ml/sec only.
- Any other power rated line must be verified compatible for power injection.

Acceptable Hand Injected Lines

- External jugular line
- 24g standard IV catheter

Non-power Injectable Lines

- Hickman
- Non-power rated ports
- Non-power rated line
- Non-power rated PICC
- Non-power rated mid-line catheter
- Dialysis catheter should not be used for any type of contrast injection