

Advice following percutaneous sclerotherapy for treatment of a vascular malformation

This leaflet explains your care following a sclerotherapy procedure. If you have any other queries please contact the Radiology Department, Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Introduction

The Radiology Team looking after you should have already explained the details of the treatment you've received. Normally a sclerosant (drug) has been injected directly into the blood vessels which form the malformation. The drug causes inflammation of the vessel walls and blockage, reducing blood flow to the malformation which should help relieve symptoms. Please ask if you are unsure or would like more information.

The time you have spent in hospital after the procedure is to ensure you are safe to go home. The treated site will be sore but you will have been monitored to ensure your pain is controlled and that there have been no complications from the treatment.

When you are at home:

- Very few people have any problems resulting from the procedure after discharge but you will require another responsible adult to be with you for 24 hours to be safe. You will be contacted normally within a couple of days after your procedure by a nurse to see how you are.
- Swelling and pain at the treatment site are normal. Please take regular painkillers including paracetamol and ibuprofen if you can safely do so. You may need to continue this for a few days. The skin may be bruised due to multiple needle punctures. This is called a haematoma and is quite normal. Keep this area clean to avoid infection.
- Remove your bandaging the day after the procedure. Any plasters on the skin can be removed at this time. Start to wear the compression stocking if you have been provided with one during the daytime only for the next 2 weeks. You can continue to use this if you find it helpful, for example during more strenuous activity.
- To reduce swelling, raise up the treated area if possible when resting. You may have been provided with a sling if your arm was treated.

- If the skin develops redness that is not settling, or if you experience new blistering, numbness or weakness in the treated limb, or if you are concerned at any time that there is a problem, please contact the Radiology Department for advice in hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm). If your symptoms are severe or it is out of hours, you should go to the nearest Accident & Emergency Department.
- Following the procedure please rest. If you have been given crutches then you should be non-weight bearing for 48 hours also. You may try to resume normal daily activities when you feel able but wait at least 48 hours before resuming to drive or doing strenuous exercise. Normally it takes 1 to 2 weeks to return to normal activities.
- Your follow-up will be explained to you on discharge. Patients are typically assessed in the Ultrasound Department 6 weeks after treatment.

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet please ask the team looking after you.

Contact us

Interventional Radiology Nurses station:

Level 1 X-Ray, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Tel 0118 322 8368 (Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5pm)

For more information about the Trust, visit the website www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

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This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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