

Extravasation of intravenous contrast medium in the arm after computed tomography in a patient with severe multiple injuries

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Extravasation of contrast medium to subcutaneous tissue is an uncommon complication of computerized tomography (CT) which may have serious consequences. We present the case of a 36 year-old man who had suffered a 3-meter fall and during initial medical assessment underwent a CT scan. By means of an infusion pump connected to a peripheral line in the dorsal right hand, 120 cc of soluble nonionic contrast medium (Ultravist® 1 ml = 623 mg Iopromide / equivalent to 300 mg of iodine) was administered. In the presence of swe-

lling and poor peripheral perfusion of the right hand, we requested plain radiographic study to rule out bone lesions. In this study (Figure 1) we found extravasation of the contrast medium in the subcutaneous tissue of the right hand and forearm. Given the possibility of developing compartment syndrome, postural therapy and skin punctures were performed, from which a clear liquid was obtained. The clinical outcome of the upper right limb was favorable, with improvement of capillary refill and reduction of the edema.



Figure 1. Extravasation of contrast medium extending subcutaneously from the back of the hand to the forearm.

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