
Audit 13

1) Audit Title

Incidence of Contrast Extravasation During CT Injection and Impact on Patients.

2) Standard against which the audit topic is to be compared

To be discussed and agreed locally. The incidence of contrast extravasation varies but tends to be <1%, <1% of affected patients have severe injury.

3) Source of standard (or reference document)

Standards are derived by local reference data but should also be formatted according to national/international publications and guidelines.

4) Type of audit

Clinical audit – loss of diagnostic information due to lack of contrast opacification may also cause diagnostic failure and a need to repeat an ionising study, also BSSD related, reporting/patient focussed.

5) Target / compliance percentage to be achieved

To be discussed and agreed locally, compliance with targets should be encouraged and a 100% figure for compliance with agreed targets could be considered.

6) Item or variable to be audited

The incidence of clinically apparent contrast extravasation.

The incidence of complications/injury – mild/moderate/severe and their nature.

The incidence of diagnostic failure of CT study and need for repeat.

7) Method: Retrospective / Prospective / Other

Depending on how robustly such events are recorded retrospective or prospective analysis can be considered.

8) Data or information to be collected

Evidence of contrast extravasation during CT injection. Evidence of serious injury (compartment syndrome, ulceration, skin necrosis) or less severe injury (pain, erythema, tenderness, swelling). Note also any diagnostic failure due to lack of contrast and if study needed to be repeated.

9) Sample details (categories, number of patients, collection time period)

To be discussed and agreed locally, large cohort of patients and scans likely to be needed to give representative data.

10) Target achieved (yes / no / not applicable)

A reasonable sample size needed to ensure representative data, agree locally.

11) Actions to be taken if the target is not met

Review staff training/injection technique. Educational sessions. New staff enrolled on IV training courses and renewal of skills for all staff involved.

12) Timing for re-audit (yes / no / not applicable)

The audit should be repeated periodically to ensure either ongoing compliance with targets or necessary improvements as required.