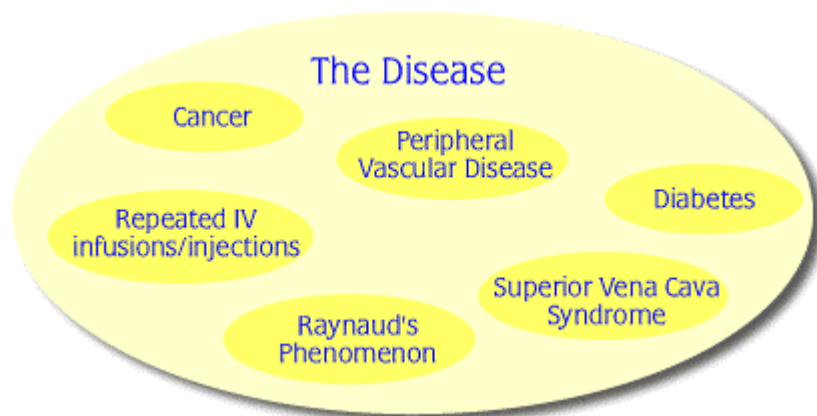


## Extravasation Risk Factors - The Disease



### Cancer

- Veins of people receiving chemotherapy are often fragile, mobile, and difficult to cannulate. [24](#) [36](#)
- Patients who receive chemotherapy at the same site as radiotherapy may experience a reactivation of skin toxicity known as 'recall' phenomenon. [4](#) [14](#) [30](#) [34](#) [39](#) [48-58](#)
- Patients who have had an extravasation and receive further chemotherapy in a different site may experience an exacerbation of tissue damage in the original site.
- Radical mastectomy, axillary surgery or lymph node dissection may impair circulation in a particular limb. This reduces venous flow and may allow intravenous solutions to pool and leak around the site of cannulation. [45](#)

*Back to the top*

---

**Peripheral Vascular Disease** [18](#) [22](#) [36](#) [45](#) [59](#)

- Atherosclerosis may cause a reduction in venous flow with risk of leakage at the intravenous site.
- Patients may also be debilitated with reduced tissue and venous tone.

*Back to the top*

---

### **Raynaud's Phenomenon** [16](#) [18](#) [32](#)

- Arterial spasm may compromise peripheral circulation and reduce venous flow.

*Back to the top*

---

### **Diabetes** [16](#) [18](#) [32](#) [36](#)

- Patients with peripheral neuropathy may not experience the pain of an infusate leaking into the subcutaneous tissues.

*Back to the top*

---

### **Superior Vena Cava Syndrome** [36](#) [60](#)

- These patients have elevated venous pressure which may predispose to leakage at the intravenous site.

*Back to the top*

---

## **Repeated Intravenous Infusions and/or Injections** [14](#) [26](#) [33](#) [36](#)

- These may thrombose vessels and limit the number of accessible veins.
- Substance abusers may be particular risk.

*Back to the top*

© *The National Extravasation Information Service 2000-2003*