

High Dose Skin Care Advice following a Cardiac X-ray Procedure

Some X-ray procedures can make your skin red and sore, similar to sunburn. This is called 'erythema' and this leaflet gives advice on skin care.

If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

The area of skin affected may be on your back or on your side (depending on where the X-rays were pointing during your procedure). You will not notice any skin change at first but you may notice some discomfort 10 – 14 days after your procedure or sometimes even later.

It will increase slightly in the following 10 days but after that it should improve rapidly.

How can I help to reduce any soreness?

- Wash your skin with lukewarm water (you may have a bath or a shower) but do not use any kind of soap on the affected area.
- Very gently pat your skin dry with a soft towel.
- Apply a cream (see below) sparingly up to four times a day. Do not rub in. Please do not use any other powders, creams or lotions on the affected area.
- Wear loose cotton clothing if possible and let the air circulate around the affected area.

What do I need to do in the future?

You should avoid exposing the affected area to direct sunlight, particularly when abroad. The affected skin will always remain more sensitive to the sun's rays and you should use a total sun block when the reaction has settled.

Types of cream

Aqueous cream is a light cream which soothes and hydrates the skin. It can be bought at a small cost from any pharmacy. The following creams are recommended: E45, Epaderm and Diprobase. These are light creams which soothe and hydrate the skin.

How to use the cream

- Make sure there is no powder or other cream on the affected area.
- Use sparingly so that the cream is absorbed into the skin. Do not rub it in.
- Carry on washing the affected area with lukewarm water.
- Apply up to four times a day.
- It can be kept in the refrigerator for a cooling effect.
- Continue using the cream until the skin has returned to normal. This may take 10 days or more.
- Stop using the cream if the skin breaks, becomes inflamed or appears infected. If this happens, contact your GP.

More information

If you have any other X-ray procedures (including CT scans) within 14 days, please give this leaflet to the hospital staff.

Contact us

If you notice any soreness, reddening or changes in appearance of the exposed area, please contact the hospital on 020 8725 3274.

Cardiac Catheter Laboratory
Atkinson Morley Wing
St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Blackshaw Road
London SW17 0QT

Tel: 020 8725 3274

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm

Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing.

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: CAR_HDSC_03 **Published:** August 2023 **Review date:** August 2025