

## IV Access Risks

Intravenous or “IV” access has infrequent but important risks. The following is a description and techniques used to mitigate those risks:

1) Infiltration – delivery of medication or fluids around the blood vessel; infiltration may cause swelling and inflammation, is typically harmless and will commonly resolve within several days. We recommend applying heat to any areas of infiltration.

2) Hematoma – bruising due to bleeding from the punctured vessel, may include mild pain and swelling, and typically resolves within 1-2 weeks.

3) Air Embolism – rare complication when air > 1mL/kg of body weight is introduced into the vein, may be life-threatening and may require emergency attention. Air embolism typically only occurs with a moderate to large amount of air in the veins.

4) Phlebitis and Thrombophlebitis – inflammation in and around the punctured vein, becomes more common in frequent IV users; AZ Vita Drips limits vein puncture (same vein) to a maximum of once every two weeks; for requests of greater frequency AZ Vita Drips requires either special approval from your personal healthcare provider or following discussion with an AZ Vita Drips medical director.

5) Micro clots - tiny blood clots associated with high frequency vein puncture; typically treated with heat compresses, NSAIDs (e.g., ibuprofen), and elevation of the limb.

6) Intra Arterial injection – inadvertent puncture of an artery instead of vein; may result in spasm of the artery and injury to the limb; medical attention may be required.

7) Infection - when puncturing the skin in any way, there is a low risk of pathogens causing infection in the skin and surrounding soft tissue. AZ Vita Drips uses isopropyl alcohol to sanitize the skin prior to puncture, but infection still remains a (low) risk when receiving IV therapy. Medical attention may be required if infection occurs.