



Effects of Treatment

Interventional Radiology (IR)

Depending on the type of procedure - complications of IR include:

Effects of Sedation: This is usually safe, but it can sometimes cause temporary side effects, including:

- Feeling or being sick
- A bruise or burning sensation where the injection was given
- Low blood pressure (hypotension)
- Breathing difficulties.

Procedure related:

- **Infection** - You may be given antibiotics before and after the procedure to help reduce the risk of infection
- **Bleeding / bruising** - depending on the area being treated and what treatment is delivered - slight bleeding or bruising, at any incision or needle site, may be experienced.
- **Damage** to the blood vessel being used to deliver treatment or healthy area surrounding the area being treated. This is rarely severe enough to require further medical or surgical intervention.
- **Reactive response** - the body may see the procedure as an injury. The natural response to injury is inflammation - caused by a rush of protective and repair factors to the site of harm. For example, if you have undergone ablative treatment to a tumour in the liver - you may experience an inflammatory response in both the tumour and the liver. The tumour doesn't want to be killed, but as its cells are attacked, it may release certain substances that cause inflammation (swelling) and may also cause a temporary 'flu-like' response (fever, shivering). This reaction may cause surrounding healthy liver cells to respond in a similar fashion. This is temporary - usually occurring within 24 hours of treatment and can be alleviated by simple paracetamol.

Rarely, a more severe reaction may be experienced as tumour cells are damaged and die - this sudden destruction can cause the release of certain chemicals into the bloodstream, that the kidneys cannot get rid of as fast as they'd like - this is called **Tumour Lysis Syndrome**. Typically, onset is within 1-5 days of the procedure or chemotherapy and severity can range from a few abnormal blood results to the other extreme, which may include renal failure and cardiac disturbances (heart problems).

If IR involves the use of chemotherapy and / or radiation particles - these substances may also carry the risk of side effects.

Further information about chemotherapy effects can be found [here](#).

Further information about radiation-related effects can be found [here](#).

You will be given self care advice (for before and after treatment): this will include how to best prepare for the procedure and what to expect afterwards - including when to seek medical help.

For example; If you notice any signs of infection, bleeding, shortness of breath or unrelieved, increasing, persistent pain. See a GP or visit your nearest A&E immediately.