“Phenytoin has been implicated as a serious cause of tissue necrosis on extravasation. It is a unique complication for the anesthetist and not much is quoted in anesthesia literature.” Hasija et al (2014).

Reference:


Phenytoin implicated as a cause of tissue necrosis on extravasation http://ctt.ec/UidNa+ @ivteam #ivteam

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Extract:

“Phenytoin has been implicated as a serious cause of tissue necrosis on extravasation. It is a unique complication for the anesthetist and not much is quoted in anesthesia literature. We cite here an incident, where a 3-year-old child weighing 12 kg was shifted to neurosurgery ICU from emergency around midnight with head injury. On examination, swelling was seen around dorsum of her left hand associated with slight skin discoloration and a 22 G IV cannula inserted very near to wrist joint seemed to be the cause. The cannula was removed immediately and hand was elevated. By evening the situation worsened with blister formation on dorsum of hand and purple discoloration. The radial artery was barely
palpable."

Full text with photographs available here.

Other intravenous and vascular access resources that may be of interest (External links – IVTEAM has no responsibility for content).