



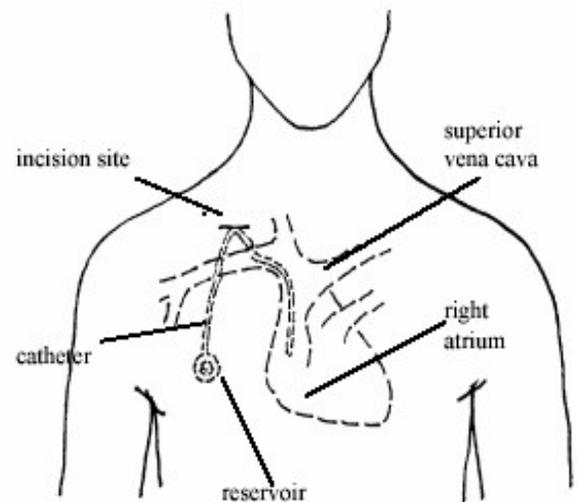
ABOUT YOUR IMPLANTED PORT CATHETER

IMPLANTED PORT CATHETER

Your doctor has ordered a medication for you that needs to be given into your bloodstream. To do this, a port has been placed in your body. Your port is attached to a flexible catheter which is placed in a blood vessel. This port is made from a number of long lasting materials. A special non-coring needle is placed through the skin into the port.

When this needle is placed into the port, a slight prick is felt. The drug or fluid goes through the needle, port and catheter into your bloodstream. Your nurse will tell you when your needle will be removed or changed.

The following guidelines are provided to help you safely care for your port. Your nurse will review them with you.



CARING FOR YOUR CATHETER

- » For the first few days after receiving your port, it is important to avoid heavy activities and to follow the instructions the doctor gives for care of the small incision. Once the incision has healed, you can resume your normal daily activities.
- » When the port is used, a dressing will cover the needle to help decrease infections and keep the needle in place. It will be changed at least once a week, and if it gets wet, dirty or comes loose.
- » Protect the needle. It can pull out if it gets snagged.
- » You should be able to move around freely. If the needle accidentally comes out, call your nurse.
- » Bathing is allowed, but do not get the dressing wet. If it does, it should be changed. Contact your nurse.

CATHETER FLUSHING

Your catheter will need to be flushed before and after each use. While accessed you will need to flush at least daily. This will prevent clots from forming in the catheter. While deaccessed, the port will be maintained with a monthly reaccess and flushed by your nurse or doctor.

OVER→

PROBLEM SOLVING

SYMPTOM	ACTION	SYMPTOM	ACTION
<p>Infection: Fever over 101°, muscle aches, weakness, chills, pain, swelling, tenderness or drainage at insertion site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call nurse immediately 	<p>Port seems to have moved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call nurse immediately
<p>Catheter blockage: Cannot infuse solution into medication port. Cannot flush port.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change positions, move arms and rotate head • Call nurse immediately 	<p>Cap missing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attach saline or heparin syringe. Call nurse immediately