

ONCOLOGY

After Chemotherapy Care Instructions

Implanted Port Care

What is an implanted port?

An implanted port is a type of catheter that is implanted under the skin and can be used for many years. The port is made up of two parts: the catheter and a portal body to which it is attached. The body of the port is made of a plastic or metal disc with a rubbery center that is the entry into a reservoir. The catheter sits in the vein. Ports are very durable and can last for years. The port is used to draw blood and give medicines.

How is the port used?

- The port is used by sticking a special needle (called a noncoring needle) through the skin, into the rubber center, and into the reservoir.
- Your nurse will explain how it is inserted.
- You may ask your physician for a prescription for a numbing cream that can be used to make the needle stick easy to take.
- Your port will need to be flushed every 4–6 weeks when it is not being used so that it will work well.

What can I do at home to care for myself?

You may have some tenderness and bruising after the port is first inserted.

Here's what you need to do for the first week:

- After 24 hours, you may remove the dressing. The steri-strips (look like tape strips) that are over the incision site will come off in about 7–10 days.
- You can shower, but don't let the water hit the incision site directly for the first 24 hours.
- Make sure the incision site area remains clean and dry.

continued

***When should I call
my physician?***

Check daily for any of these signs:

- Redness or drainage at the port site.
- Swelling to the chest or arms.
- Shortness of breath.
- Pain at the port site.
- Warmth to the touch at the port site.
- Fever or chills.

If you cannot reach your health care team or your symptoms get worse, go to Urgent Care or the Emergency Department.