

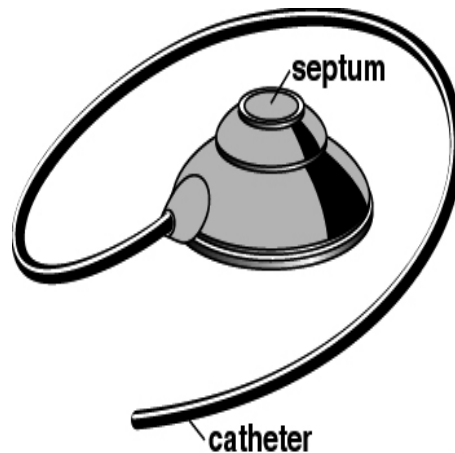


Before Your Port Placement

It has been recommended that you have a “port” placed. This handout explains some of the common questions you may have about the procedure and contains instructions to get you ready for your port placement.

What is a Port?

A port is a device that allows an easy and reliable way to give medicine into the veins of your body. It can also be used for blood draws and to give IV contrast during CT scans. It is implanted under the skin on your chest, so a small incision must be made to place the port. The port is attached to a tube that is inserted through a tiny incision into a vein in your neck.



What should I expect during my port placement?

If you desire, an oral relaxation medication (Xanax) will be given to you 30 minutes before your procedure begins. An IV will be placed into your arm and used to give you an antibiotic. A technologist will then wash your upper right or left chest with a cleanser. To reduce the risk of infection, your chest and neck will be covered with a sterile drape. The drape is made into a tent so that it does not lie on your face, and fresh air is circulated under the drape through a piece of tubing. You will be able to see out from under the drape, so that you will be able to talk with your caregiver if you wish.

Once you are ready for the procedure, you will be given sedative and pain medications in your IV if needed. Additional doses of medication are frequently given until the desired level of relaxation and tranquility are achieved. You may feel a few pinpricks as your doctor numbs the area with a local anesthetic. Your doctor will then place the port under the skin and insert the attached catheter into your vein. The incision is closed with stitches and you will recover for about 30 minutes to an hour. Your driver can then take you home to rest. You will need to return in 3 days to have your incision checked, and may need to have your stitches removed in about 10-14 days.

How Do I Prepare for my Port Procedure?

- Do not eat anything for 6 hours before your procedure. You may have clear liquids to drink such as clear juices or black coffee up until 4 hours before the port insertion.
- You must have someone with you to drive you home after the procedure.
- Please do not take aspirin, Plavix, or blood thinners such as coumadin for 5 days prior to your procedure. Lovenox may be stopped the day prior to the procedure. If you cannot stop taking coumadin because of a heart valve or similar condition, please call the clinic so that we can make special arrangements for you.
- Occasionally, additional blood tests may be needed prior to your port procedure. We will review your most recent lab tests and clinic records to determine whether additional tests are necessary.
- You may take your normal morning or afternoon medications with a sip of water.
- Please shower or bathe the evening before or morning of your procedure. Do not apply any ointments or perfumes to your chest or neck.
- Women should arrive wearing their usual type of bra. This will allow your doctor to mark where your bra strap lays so the port can be placed where it will not rub.
- You will only need to take off your clothes from the waist up, so you may wear comfortable clothing and a top that is easy to take off.

How do I take care of my port?

You will be given a detailed information sheet with instructions for the care of your port at the time of your appointment.

Please call us:

Your well-being is important to us. Please call us at **801-281-0027** if you have any questions or special concerns about your procedure.