

Porta Cath (Port) Placement

What is an implanted venous access port?

An implanted venous access port is a device used to give treatments and take blood. The port is a small container that is placed under your skin, usually in your upper chest. The port is attached to a catheter that enters a large vein. The Porta Cath can be used to draw blood, administer fluids, and give treatments like chemotherapy and antibiotics. It can stay in place for weeks, months, or years.

What to expect:

The site where your Porta Cath is placed may be sore, bruised, and slightly swollen. You can apply an ice pack wrapped in a towel or pillowcase to surgical site for 20 minutes every hour as needed.

Surgical Site care:

The dressing over your port site may be removed after 24 hours. After removing the dressing, gently wash the area daily with mild soap and water. Pat dry with a clean, soft towel. You can leave the site open to air.

How do I care for a skin adhesive?

You may have a type of skin adhesive (glue) instead of a bandage. The skin adhesive works like a bandage. Do not place any dressings, lotions, or ointments on an incision with a skin adhesive.

- Do not use antibiotic ointment on the incision, as it can break down the adhesive.
- You can shower while the adhesive is on your skin (please wait 24 hours after surgery), but do not take a bath, soak, or scrub the area for 14 days. Dry your skin by patting it gently with a towel.
- The adhesive will peel off on its own, usually in 1-2 weeks

Activity:

- You may start taking showers again 24 hours after your procedure.
- Avoid heavy lifting and physical activity for 2 weeks after your procedure.
- No tub baths, hot tubs or swimming for 2 weeks, or until your site heals.

If you have any of the following signs and symptoms, please notify the office:

- Fever (greater than 101.5 F)
- Severe arm/chest pain coming from your port site
- Tingling, numbness or cold sensation of your fingers
- Redness, swelling, red streaking or pain at IV site or port site
- Active bleeding
- Concerns related to the port
- Signs of infection such as redness, swelling, or pus

When to go to the Emergency Department:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Anytime you think you need emergency care