

# Implantable Central Venous Port for Hassle Free Chemotherapy

## 1. Why **Implantable Central Venous Port** is advisable for chemotherapy?

Chemotherapy is traditionally given into your veins. Drugs used for chemotherapy are very toxic and damage the veins. This leads to pain, bruising & swelling during chemotherapy. With time these veins get blocked and it gets difficult to find new veins to administer chemotherapy. The patient has to endure many pricks to vein. Thus the entire process becomes very painful.



Implantable Central Venous Ports such as Sitimplant<sup>®</sup> & DistricAth<sup>®</sup> are used to give medication directly into your blood stream without having to repeatedly insert a needle into your vein. This makes chemotherapy a hassle free process.

## 2. What are the advantages of an implanted port?

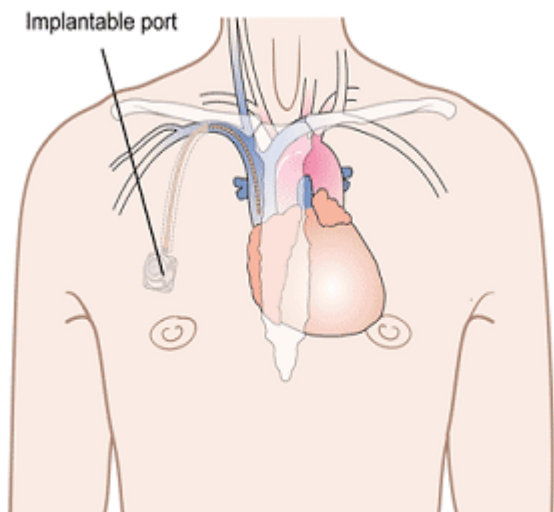
- It only needs to have the needle put in when we need to use it.
- The needle is removed in between treatments and you will not have to worry about any dressings.
- It doesn't restrict your normal activities including bathing & swimming.
- Completely avoids repeated pricks to get veins.
- Even blood can be drawn for various tests

## 3. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

This procedure will require the injection of a local anaesthetic and a sedation anaesthetic. This procedure can also be done under general anesthesia.

## 4. Preparation for the procedure

- You will be told when to have your last meal and drink. This is to make sure your stomach is empty so that if you vomit during the procedure there will be nothing to go into your lungs.



- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.
- If you take **Aspirin, Warfarin, Clopidogrel or Dipyridamole (Persantin and Asasantin) or any other drug that is used to thin your blood ask your doctor/health practitioner if you should stop taking it before the procedure as** it may affect your blood clotting.
- List or bring all your prescribed drugs, those drugs you buy over the counter, herbal remedies and supplements.
- Do not drink any alcohol and stop recreational drugs 24 hours before the procedure as these may alter the affects of the sedation anaesthetic. If you have a drug habit please tell your doctor.

5. During the procedure

A fine needle (IV cannula) will be inserted into a vein in your arm. A suitable vein for the catheter will be selected. Local anaesthetic and sedation will be injected. A small cut is made in the skin over the vein. A guide needle will be inserted into your vein. You may be asked to hold your breath for several seconds while the catheter is inserted. The tip of the catheter will be positioned using x-ray guidance in a major vein. A port is inserted entirely under your skin and the catheter is attached to it. All cuts are closed with sutures and dressings applied. Totally implantable devices can stay in for months or even years.

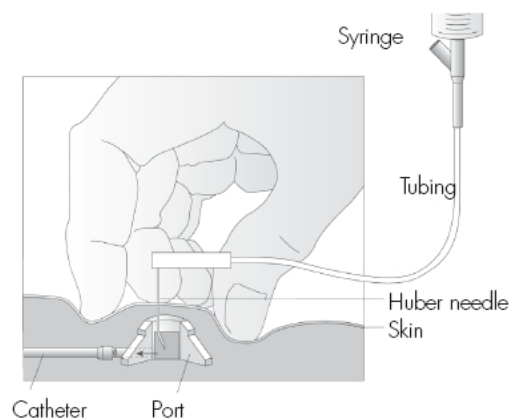
After the procedure a chest x-ray will be taken to confirm its placement.

6. After the procedure

The recovery time varies depending on the type of anesthesia given. It can be anywhere between 2 to 4 hours if done under local anesthesia. The IV cannula will be removed after you have recovered. Following the insertion of your device it is normal to experience some tenderness and bruising for about 24 to 48 hours. Pain killers and ice packs may help this. You will be educated about your Central Vascular Access Device, how to take care of it and the recommended level of activity advised while it is in place.

7. How do you care for the port?

The best part is there is **no special care needed** for a port from the patient's side. The needle is removed in between treatments and you will not have to worry about any dressings or flushing the port. You have to get the port flushed by a trained health worker at least once in **4 weeks**. If maintained well the port can be left in place for years.



8. Precautions while using the device.
  - Healthcare workers should perform **hand hygiene** with an antiseptic-containing soap solution or use an alcohol-based waterless cleanser before and after palpating or using the port
  - Just use of gloves without the above is not sufficient.
  - Similarly the skin over the port site should be cleaned thoroughly before use and all sterile precautions taken.
  - Only a **non-coring (Huber) needle** should be used for this port. Other needles will damage the drum.
  - Port needs to be **flushed with 10-15 ml of heparinised saline or CitraLok™** after every use.
  
9. **Contact your doctor immediately** if you notice any of the following:
  - You develop a **high temperature, fever, chills or flu like symptoms** (this could be an infection)
  - Your arm, neck or shoulder is swollen and painful (this could be a sign of a blood clot).
  - You have pain or burning when flushing the catheter.
  - You think your catheter site looks red and inflamed, there is any discharge or the redness is tracking up your arm– could be early signs of infection.
  
10. Removal of port.

Port may be removed when its use is over or when there is a complication. This can be done under local anesthesia using a small cut over the port.