

VENOUS ACCESS DEVICE (PORT) PLACEMENT

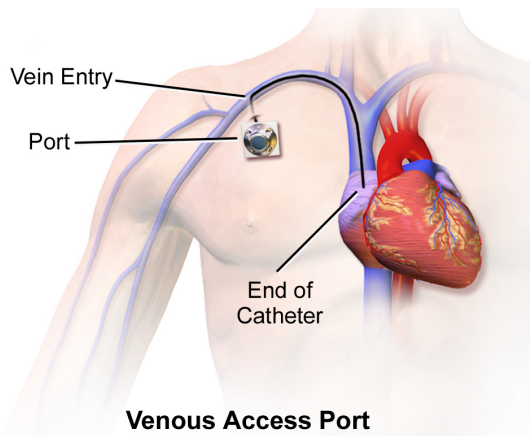
WHAT IS A PORT

A “Port” allows for convenient access to your venous system. A port is implanted under the skin and is usually placed under general anesthesia. These devices can stay in place permanently if there are no complications. Most of our patients, however, have these removed when they are no longer receiving chemotherapy.

Ports are very low maintenance. No special care is needed once the device is placed. It should only require flushing with heparinized saline once a month when not being used. The heparin in the saline keeps the blood from clotting in the catheter between uses.

Ports are typically placed to give health care providers a way to administer fluids, antibiotics, chemotherapy, etc. Sometimes, they can be used to retrieve blood for laboratory tests – but not always.

Ports have a reservoir that can be felt just under the skin as a round disc. A needle is placed through the skin and into the reservoir when your port is “accessed.” A catheter, which is connected to the reservoir, goes into a large vein. This vein is commonly in the chest but can be in the neck.



AFTER YOUR OPERATION

You may experience some mild pain at the incision. In this case, you can use ice packs and anti-inflammatories as recommended. The incisions are closed with sutures that will dissolve on their own (therefore, they will not need to be removed at your post op visit). A steri-strip that was placed over the incision will fall off on its own – or will be removed by Dr. Hailey at your post op visit. You may leave your incisions open to air starting on the first day after your surgery. You can also begin showering on this day – but do not submerge the incision in water. If you remain sore after one week please avoid strenuous activities, contact sports, etc. You can return to work the day after surgery.

CALL DR. HAILEY’S OFFICE IF . . .

- You notice bleeding from the incisions after the first day. It is normal to have a “stain” on the tape/dressing.
- Pain persists or recurs that is not relieved by typical over-the-counter pain medications.
- You notice significant swelling around your port, or in your arm/neck/face.
- You have fever above 101.5 F, an increased heart rate, chills, or shortness of breath.
- You develop redness or extreme tenderness around the port or incisions.
- Any drainage from the incisions.

Please contact us at (225) 751-2778 should you have issues, concerns or questions.