



# Implanted Port and surgery

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## What is an Implanted Port?

It is a thin flexible tube attached to a disc with a rubbery centre that is put under the skin during surgery. The disc is about the size of a quarter. It is usually placed in the upper chest just below the collarbone. It is also called a Port-a-Cath.

## What happens during surgery?

The port will be put in during a short surgery in the operating room. Usually your child will be put to sleep with a general anesthetic. The surgeon will make a small cut and insert the device just under the skin.

## How does it work?

The port will look like a small raised area under the skin. A special needle is used to put medicine into the port. Blood for lab tests can also be taken out of the port. It can be used the same day it is put in.

## Caring for the port

There will be a small incision where the port was placed closed with stitches and covered with a light dressing. The stitches will be removed in 5 to 7 days. The first day or two the area around the incision may be tender or a little red.

Do not get the bandage wet for 5 to 7 days. It is best to take a bath instead of a shower during this time.

The first time the port is used it might hurt a little. The more it is used the less it will hurt as the skin toughens. Numbing medicine may be used if necessary.

Limit strenuous activities for the first few days after surgery. Check with your doctor about sports. The port should not be bumped or hit.

## Home care

Home care will be arranged if needed by your doctor before you go home. Ongoing care at home involves putting fluid into the port so it does not become blocked. This is called flushing the port. It will be flushed every 4 weeks if it is not used regularly.

## Call your doctor if you notice:

- redness, swelling or drainage around the incision
- fever greater than 38.5°C or 102°F
- increased tenderness or pain around the incision