

FACTSHEET



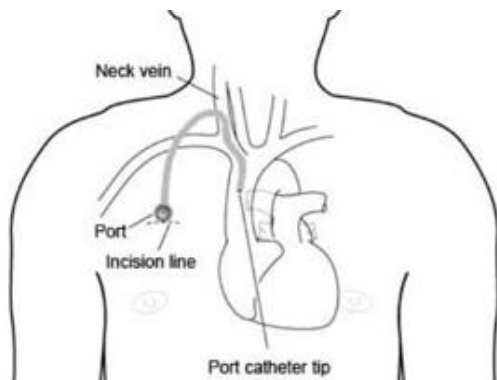
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Port (Implantable Venous Access Device)

Your doctor may have talked to you about using a device called a 'port'. This factsheet explains how and why they are used.

What is a port and how is it inserted?

A Port is a type of central venous access device that lies completely underneath the skin. It has two main parts. There is an injection chamber that is within a solid case of titanium or plastic which is covered by a special thick membrane that seals itself after injection. Attached to the injection chamber is a narrow soft tube called a catheter. This catheter is placed into one of the large veins of the neck or chest.



Two small incisions are made in the skin. The first at the neck, this is where the catheter is inserted into a vein (entry site). The second incision is made on the chest or upper abdomen, there the chamber of the port is placed underneath the skin. The two incisions are stitched closed. In older children there may only be one incision site. Rarely, the port may be inserted into another area, such as the groin, or the inside of the upper arm. The

surgeon will discuss the site of the chamber prior to the operation.

Why would my child need a port?

- To give certain medications
- Small/difficult veins
- Long term treatment

Potential challenges with insertion

- There is a risk of bleeding or oozing around the insertion site in the neck and where the chamber of the port is placed. This usually settles fairly quickly.
- The position of the catheter may not be satisfactory on the X-ray and it may need to be repositioned.

Is it painful?

- Local anaesthetic may be injected into the surrounding area to numb the area and reduce pain.
- For about a week after insertion, areas where the port is inserted will be little sore. Once these have healed, your child should not feel any pain.

How is the port accessed?

A port is accessed using a special needle called a non-coring right angled needle. The needle is inserted through the skin into the soft rubber chamber of the port and a clear dressing will be applied over the top to prevent the needle from becoming accidentally removed. Once the needle is in and the port is accessed, the non-coring needle can remain in place for up to 7 days. Fluids and medication can then be administered through the port. Ports can be used to obtain blood tests, please speak to your child's doctor for further information.

