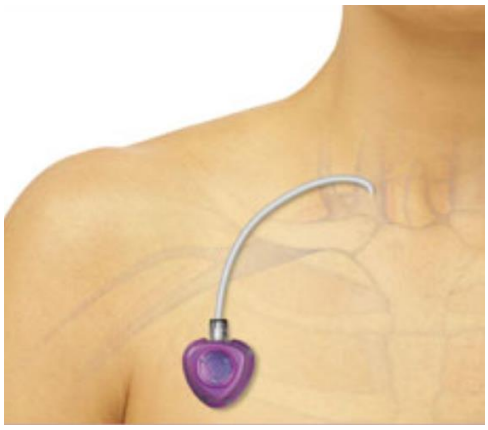
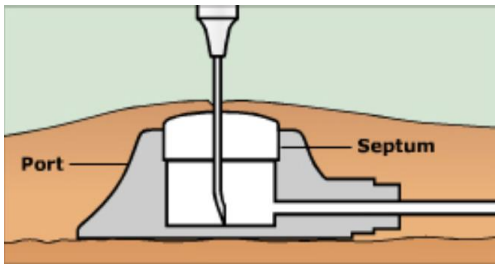
Information for insertion of a chemo port

A Central Vascular Access Device is used to give you medication directly into your blood stream without having to repeatedly insert a needle into your vein. There are many different types of devices. The device that you have inserted is dependant on the type and length of treatment required.

This procedure will require an injection of local anaesthetic and a sedation anaesthetic. A port is inserted entirely under your skin and has a catheter attached. The catheter is pushed (tunnelled) under your skin until it reaches the vein to be entered. All cuts are closed with sutures and dressings applied.

Totally implantable devices can stay in for months or even years.





Risks of the procedure:
In recommending a Central Venous Access Device, the doctor believes the benefits to you from having this procedure exceed the risks involved.

The risks and complications with this procedure and with having a device can include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications include:
- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from the IV cannula. This may require treatment with antibiotics.
- Pain or discomfort at the insertion site. This may require medication.
- Bleeding or bruising may occur. This is usually stopped by applying further pressure and/or ice to the puncture site. This is more common if you take Aspirin, Warfarin, Clopidogrel (Plavix and Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin and Asasantin).
- The device may become kinked and need repositioning or removal.
- The device may become blocked and need medications to unblock or may need to be removed.
- Nerve damage, is usually temporary, and should get better over a period of time. Permanent nerve damage is rare.

Less common risks and complications include:
- Infection at the skin, requiring antibiotics and/or further treatment.
- Infection in the device, requiring the device to be removed.
- Pneumothorax, a collection of air around the lining of the lungs. This usually resolves by itself but sometimes may require a tube to be inserted into the chest.
- Damage to surrounding structures such as blood vessels, organs and muscles, requiring further treatment.
- Failure to gain access to the vein. This may require a second attempt from a different location.

- Blood clot blocking the vein, may require medication to treat.
- An allergy to injected drugs, requiring further treatment.
- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

Rare risks and complications include:
- Injected medications may leak outside of the vein under the skin and into tissue, this may require treatment.
- A fast or irregular heart beat. This usually resolves on it's own but sometimes may need further treatment.
- The catheter tip may move from the original placement. The device may need to be removed.
- An air bubble enters the blood stream. This can travel to the heart causing a heart attack or to the brain causing a stroke.
- An increased lifetime cancer risk due to the exposure to x-rays.
- Seizures and/or cardiac arrest due to local anaesthetic toxicity.
- Death as a result of this procedure is extremely rare.

Important points:
- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.
- If you take Aspirin, Warfarin, Clopidogrel (Plavix and Iscover) 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.

After the procedure The recovery time varies but can be anywhere from 1 to 4 hours.
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. Ice packs may help this.