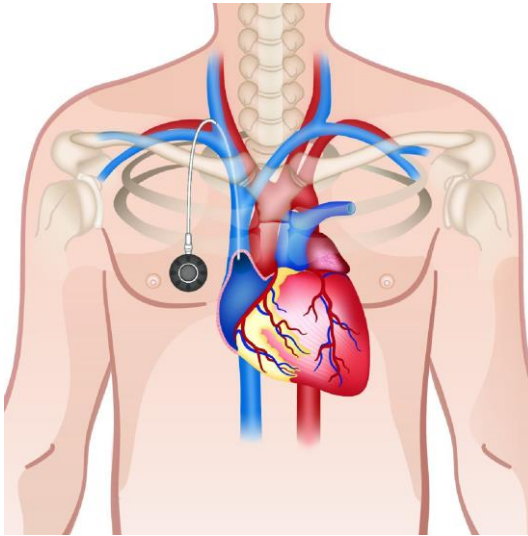




مدينة الملك فهد الطبية  
King Fahad Medical City



## Port A Cath Procedure

## What's Port-A-Cath?

A subcutaneous port that has a small round metal chamber (portal) with a rubber top (septum) and a flexible tube (catheter). It is placed completely under the skin on the right side of the chest. A catheter threads under the skin from the metal chamber into a large vein near the collarbone, then into or near the right atrium of the heart. It is also called implantable venous port or Port-a-Cath.

## Port-A-Cath Insertion

The doctor places a subcutaneous port in the operations room while the person is under general anesthesia.

→ **Sometimes local anesthesia is used for adults and older children.**

1. The doctor makes 2 small cuts (incisions) in the skin. One cut is made in the chest to place the portal. The other cut is made near the collarbone where the catheter will enter a vein in the lower part of the neck.
2. The catheter is placed in a large vein in the neck and threaded into or near the right atrium of the heart.
3. The other end of the catheter is tunneled under the skin and attached to the portal.
4. Fluid is injected into the portal to ensure it is working correctly.
5. The portal is then placed under the skin in the chest and stitched to the underlying muscle.
6. The doctor stitches both incisions closed.

7. After the incisions heal, the shape of the portal can be seen under the skin.
8. An x-ray is done to confirm the catheter tip is in the correct position.

## Port-A-Cath Complications

Possible complications of a subcutaneous port include:

- **Infection in the skin at the exit site or in the blood**
  - Some infections can be treated with antibiotics without removing the subcutaneous port.
  - Sometimes it must be removed.

➤ **Blood clots in the catheter or the vein**

- The catheter may be flushed with a drug to try and dissolve the clot.
- Sometimes the subcutaneous port may be removed.

➤ **The subcutaneous port moves and irritates the vein**

- The subcutaneous port may be removed.

➤ **Slipping of the needle from the back of the port chamber**

- The IV fluid flows under the skin instead of into the vein.
- The subcutaneous port cannot be used until the swelling goes down.

## Port-A-Cath Uses and Benefits

### A subcutaneous port is used when:

- A person needs intravenous (IV) access to receive fluids or drugs over a long period of time.
- The small veins in the body can no longer be used for giving fluids or drugs.
- Can stay in the vein for a long period of time.
- Reduces discomfort because IV therapy can be given more easily.
- Local anesthetic creams can be used to numb the skin before puncturing the port with the special needle.
- Does not require a dressing once the skin has healed and a needle is no longer in place.

- Prevents the “burning” sensation sometimes felt when getting drugs by other IV methods.
- Does not restrict activity.
- People can bathe, exercise, swim and play once the incision heals and the needle is not in place.
- Requires no care at home.

## Port-A-Cath Care

- The child should stay quiet and avoid any physical activity for the first 24 hours.
- The skin at the injection site needs to be washed as normal.
- A bandage is not needed when a needle is not in place.

- Check the site daily for any redness, swelling or other signs of infection.

### **When to see a doctor:**

- Fever greater than 38°C (100.4°F) swelling or bleeding at the PORT site
- Leakage or drainage at the PORT site or neck
- Difficulty breathing
- Irregular heartbeat, such as skipped beats or a very fast heart rate
- Neck swelling or bruising



## **Port-A-Cath Removal**

A subcutaneous port will be removed when IV therapy is no longer needed. This is done in the Operation room under general anesthesia.

# لأن الوعي وقاية ..

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**Comprehensive Cancer Center**



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