Implanted Port (Medi-port) Information
Patient Education

What is an Implanted Port?
The implanted port is a device used to give medications into your bloodstream or directly into your abdomen. Blood stream ports also allow easy access to draw blood. You may have a type of blood stream port placed that can withstand more pressure than others. This port is placed if you will routinely need tests that need dye injected.

A port is placed under your skin and connected to a tube (catheter) which is inserted into a large vein in your chest (diagram 1) or into your abdomen (diagram 2). The port may be seen as a raised area under your skin. Daily care is not required for the port unless the needle is left in place.

Diagram 1

Diagram 2

Where does an Implanted Port procedure take place and what can I expect?
Implanted ports are placed in interventional radiology (IR) or an operating room (OR). In the IR, you will be given drugs to help you relax but you will be awake during the procedure. A local numbing medication is used
to prevent pain during port placement. In the OR you will be asleep during the port placement. NO matter where you go for port placement, you will be given instructions on site care and pain management. These instructions include a contact number should you have questions or complications after the procedure.

**How is the Implanted Port used?**
When you need medications or blood (bloodstream port), a special needle is placed through your skin and into the septum of the port. **WHEN NOT IN USE, THE PORT IS FLUSHED ONCE A MONTH.** When accessed for use, most patients feel a mild pricking sensation when the needle is placed. This sensation during needle placement decreases over time. If you feel pain when the needle is inserted, ask the nurse to apply an ice pack to the skin the next time your port is accessed. Applying ice to the area for about 10 minutes before putting the needle in numbs the area. Another option is to ask your doctor or nurse for a prescription for a topical cream or gel that numbs the skin.

Lidocaine and prilocaine (topical anesthetics) are two medications commonly used to numb skin. There are many brands to choose from, ask your doctor or nurse which one they prescribe. Be sure to let your doctor or nurse know if you have any allergies or reactions to medicine, food preservatives, or dyes. Talk to your doctor, nurse and/or pharmacist about potential side effects of these medicines.

You will need to apply the topical anesthetic to your skin before you come in to have your port accessed. **To be most effective, the topical anesthetic should be applied at least 1 hour before needle insertion.** The medication works best 1 to 2 hours after applied.

**How to Use This Medicine**
The medicine may come with a special applicator (a tool for applying the medicine), or with a special dressing to go over the medicine. If you are not sure how to use the applicator or dressing, ask the pharmacist.

- Wash your hands with soap and water before and after applying this medicine.
- Clean your skin over the port site with soap and water. Dry your skin well.
- Use rubber gloves to apply the cream. NOTE: This medicine is only for use on your skin. Keep out of mouth, nose, and eyes. If it does get on these areas, rinse it off right away.
- Apply a layer of the medicine to your skin over the port site. Do not rub in.
- Cover the area with a bandage or dressing. If the dressing doesn’t come with the medicine, once you have the cream/gel on your skin, cover the site with a piece of clear plastic wrap and tape around all the edges. The nurse will remove the dressing and clean the area before inserting the needle.

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