What Is an Implanted Port?
An implanted port is a device that gives your medical team easy access to your veins. It is placed entirely under the skin, usually in the upper chest.

The port allows blood draws, chemotherapy infusions, and blood transfusions without the need to insert an IV needle in your arm every time. Ports can remain in place for years.

How Is the Port Placed?
A licensed medical professional will place your implanted port with a surgical procedure at the hospital. You will not need to stay overnight. You will either get medicine to numb the area or be sedated for the procedure. After the procedure, a large gauze dressing will cover two small cuts in your skin. Under the gauze, the cuts will be sealed in one of two ways:

- Cloth tape, such as Steri-Strips
- Clear surgical glue, such as Dermabond

Your incisions are closed with ________________.
Your surgeon today was ________________.

How Do I Care for My New Port?
The care of your port depends on which type of closure you have.

CLOTH TAPE
Take the gauze dressing off yourself 48 hours after the procedure. After 48 hours, you do not need to cover the port area with a dressing if it is kept dry.

Do not let the port area get wet. For showering, cover the port area with plastic wrap or any covering that will keep it dry. After two weeks, you may bathe, swim in a pool, or soak in a hot tub if the cuts are healed well.

Let the cloth tape fall off. Do not pull it off.
Do not use ointments or herbal remedies on the incisions unless your surgeon tells you to.

CLEAR SURGICAL GLUE
Take the dressing off yourself 24 hours after the procedure. After 24 hours, you do not need to cover the port area with a dressing.

You do not need to cover the port area for showering. After two weeks, you may bathe, swim in a pool, or soak in a hot tub if the cuts are healed well.

Carefully remove loose pieces of the clear sealant. Do not pull on pieces that are stuck to your skin. Do not use ointments or herbal remedies on the incisions unless your surgeon tells you to.

How Can I Prevent Infection?
- Do not leave the gauze dressing in place for longer than instructed above.
- If you have cloth tape closures, cover them with plastic when showering. Wet tape can be a source of infection.

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• If you go outside Huntsman Cancer Institute for treatment or tests, be sure the staff has experience with this type of port. If they do not, you will be safer if they use intravenous (IV) access in one of your veins instead.

• Medical staff who access your port should follow sterile procedures. They need to wear mask and gloves while preparing and inserting the special needle for port access. Once the port is connected, a sterile dressing is placed over it. Mask and gloves are not required after the dressing is in place.

• Be sure anyone who uses your port has washed his or her hands or used hand sanitizer.

• Be sure anyone who injects fluids into your port scrubs the access point with an alcohol swab for 15 seconds before the injection.

How Is the Port Used?

Once your port is in place, it can be used right away. Waiting for the cuts to heal is not necessary unless your surgeon orders it.

If you are receiving treatment the same day that the port is placed, ask your surgeon to leave the needle in for your treatment.

To access your port, your nurse will push a special needle (called a Huber needle) through your skin and into the port. The nurse will put a dressing over the port site to keep it clean during treatment.

If accessing the ports causes pain, you can get a cream called Emla cream that numbs the site. Ask your oncology team for this prescription.

How Do I Care for My Port Once Healed?

Your port needs no care from you after the cuts have healed. At your clinic visits, a nurse will flush your port with salt water and a drug called heparin at least once a month. The heparin helps keep your port free of blood clots. Let your health care provider know if you are allergic to heparin.

If you do not see your provider or have labs done at least once a month, you need to make separate appointments to have your port flushed. Without flushing, your port may become unusable.

Please make sure to have your port flushed at least once a month.

When and How Is the Port Removed?

When your treatment is complete, you and your oncologist will decide the best time to remove your port. A licensed medical professional will remove the port. The medical professional will numb the area and make a small cut over the port to remove it. He or she will close the cut and cover it with a dressing.

When Should I Call My Doctor?

Call your oncologist if you have any of these problems:

• Pain, redness, or swelling around the port

• Chills or fever above 100.5° F

• Dizziness or breathlessness

• Swelling, tenderness, or redness in your neck or arm

Contact Numbers

Your doctor ________________________________

Nurse ________________________________

Phone ________________________________

PA or NP ________________________________

Phone ________________________________

After hours or weekends: Call 801-581-2121 and ask for the oncology resident on call.