

Prevent Infections

If germs get into your central line and into your blood stream, it can cause a life-threatening infection. There are many ways to keep this from happening:

The Patient Should:

- Wash your hands often.
- Do not touch your line or dressing unless necessary.
- Keep your dressing clean and dry.
- Shower daily and cover your dressing when showering.

The Nurse Should:

- Wash hands before and after caring for the central line.
- Scrub the hub every time the line is used.
- If using site scrub, turn it 8—10 times.
- If using alcohol prep, scrub for 15 seconds. Allow it to dry.

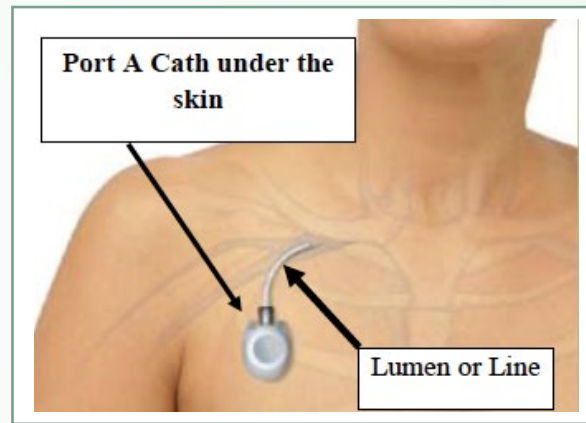
For the Dressing Change the Nurse Should:

- Use a mask and special gloves.
- Change the dressing every 7 days.
- Change the dressing if bloody, wet, or loose.

Using Sterile Technique means:

- Face masks must be worn by patient and anyone within three feet of the bed during insertion and dressing changes. Wear sterile gloves.
- Use a sterile dressing kit.
- Scrub the “exit site” and the skin around the central line back and forth for at least 30 seconds and let dry.

Glossary



Aqua guard shield: used to keep your dressing dry.



Site Scrub: Used to clean the hub 8 turns or 10 seconds



Biopatch: Protective disk that prevents germs from from growing. Good for 7 days. Must be used on Port A Cath if needle will be in more than 8 hours.



Sterile Gloves

PROTECTING YOUR PORT A CATHETER



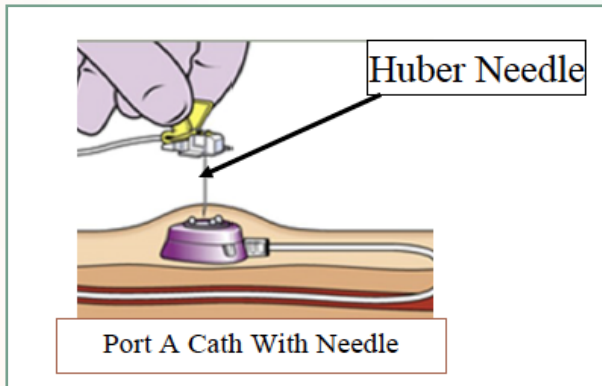
What is a Port a Catheter?

Port-a-Catheter is a small medical device that is placed under the skin. A plastic hollow tube is fixed to the port and passes through to the largest vein near the heart.



Port A Catheter

Port-a-Catheter is a small medical device that is placed under the skin. A plastic line is fixed to the port and passes through to the largest vein near the heart. It may have 1 or 2 lumens.



Patient should keep their inserted device identification card and discharge instructions with them.

- A special needle, called a Huber needle, will be used to access your port. Your port is always entered using a sterile kit, while wearing sterile gloves, and a mask.
- The needle can be left in place for up to seven days with a special protective dressing and use of a Biopatch.
- Can be used for IV fluids, chemotherapy, antibiotics, blood products or intravenous nutrition. It may also be used to draw blood. A “power-injectable” port can be used for intravenous contrast.
- This catheter is inserted and removed by a surgeon or an interventional radiologist.

Who to call in case of emergency:

Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Return to normal activities after port incision has healed.
- Have the dressing changed at least every seven days when port is accessed.
- Keep your dressing dry. It is ok to use plastic wrap and tape or special gloves called Aqua Guard Gloves as needed.
- Keep your port line lumens close to your body while accessed. Ok to use tape.
- Keep the inserted device identification card and discharge instructions with you at all times.

Don'ts

- Do not lift more than the doctor ordered.
- No swimming in pool, lakes, or ocean if needle is in place.
- Do not touch your port while it is accessed.

When To Call Your Doctor:

Signs of Infection

- New pain or tenderness.
- Any redness around your port.
- Drainage, pus, oozing, or wetness around the catheter.
- A foul odor coming from the dressing.
- A swollen face, neck, or arm on the side of the central line.
- A fever of 100.4F or greater.
- Incision site that does not heal.

Signs of a Blood Clot

- Swelling and/or a new pain in the arm, neck, or face on the side of the line.

Signs of Bleeding

- Dressing wet with blood.
 - A bruise that gets bigger around your line.
-