

Port Insertion

Why is it done?

A Port is a small medical device that is placed beneath the skin, usually in the upper chest or arm to be used for the infusion of medications or fluids and for blood draws. The port can also be used for CT scans that need IV contrast injected. The Interventional Radiologist will use ultrasound guidance and x-ray guidance to place the port, which will insure it is in the proper position.

How to prepare

You may be advised to stop taking medications called “Blood Thinners” prior to your procedure to reduce the risk of bleeding. Your medications should be reviewed with you by your physician when the test is scheduled. You will be given directions telling you what medications you need to stop taking and when. A nurse from the Radiology Department will call you the day before your scheduled procedure to instruct you on your arrival time at the hospital. They will also instruct you when to stop eating and drinking and all medication instructions.

What to expect during the procedure

The radiologist will explain the procedure to you and get your consent for the procedure. You will then be brought back to the procedure room where the nurses and technologists will attach monitors to you so your vitals can be watched during the procedure. The nurses will give

you medications to help you relax for the procedure. The doctor will then administer numbing medication and will use Ultrasound and X-ray guidance to place the port device. The port placement will usually take about an hour.

What to expect after the procedure

There is no bedrest time required. The nurses will help you back out to the waiting room where your driver will be waiting because you are not permitted to drive a car for 24 hours. You may be a slightly groggy for a little while after the procedure due to the medication. Depending on the Interventional Radiologist instructions, you may or may not have dressing changes to do at home for 3 days after the procedure. Those specific instructions and dressing supplies will be given to the patient on the day of the procedure. We will see you back in the office in 7-10 days to examine the incisions and remove any necessary sutures. At home, after the procedure, it is common to have discomfort where the port was inserted. You can take over the counter pain medication or your usual pain reliever as directed. We ask that you do not take any aspirin or aspirin containing products for 24 hours after the procedure due to the risk of bleeding associated with aspirin. It is also common to have bruising at the port site which may extend down into the chest or the arm if the port was inserted there. This should improve over 3-4 days but may take up to a week. The Port is ready for use the day it is inserted. It should only be accessed for use by trained healthcare personnel to prevent infection or damage to the port.