

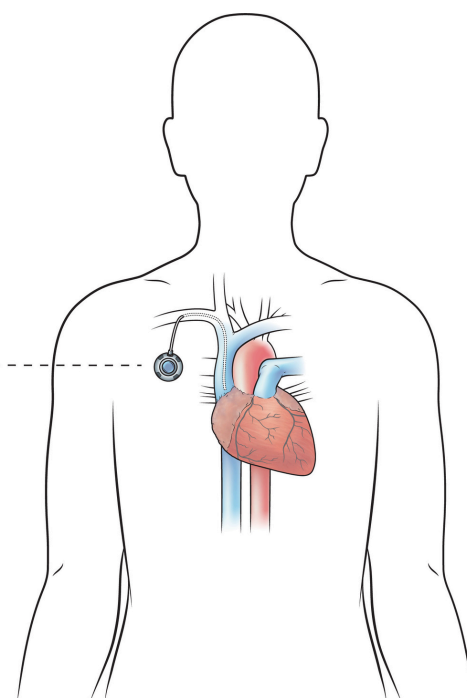
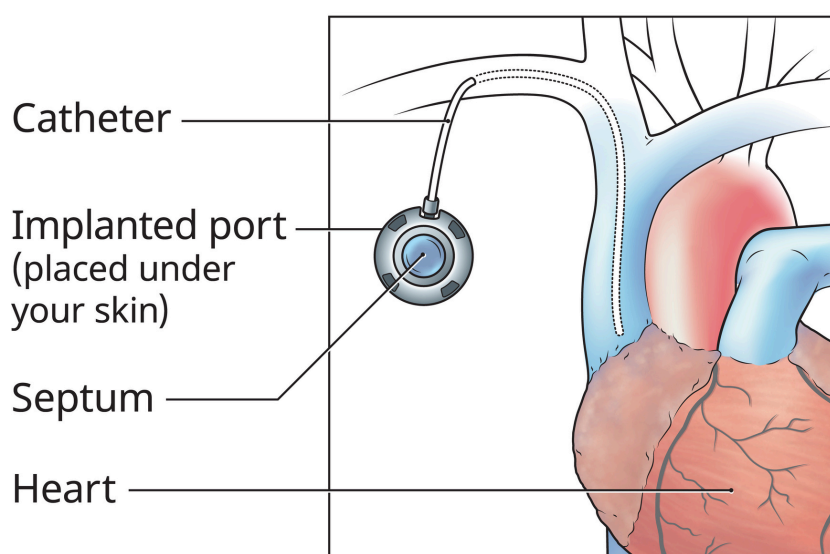
# Caring for your Port-a-Cath

## Information for Patients on Cancer Treatment

Your cancer treatment will be given through a Port-a-Cath. This is a device that is surgically placed in your upper chest, below your collarbone. The port is connected to a thin, flexible line that sits in your bloodstream, close to your heart.

Your doctor may suggest you to have a Port-a-Cath if your treatment plan lasts more than 6 months.

Your Port-a-Cath can stay in your body for years if cared for properly.



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When you need to receive treatment through your Port-a-Cath, your nurse will insert a special needle into the centre of the Port-a-Cath.

### **If you have a Port-a-Cath:**

- Avoid upper body exercises, heavy lifting over 10 pounds, or getting the cut wet for the first week after surgery
- For the first week after your Port-a-Cath is put in, pat the surgical cut dry after showering
- Follow your surgeon's instructions on when to remove the clear tape over your cut after you have the surgery to put in the Port-a-Cath
- Your Port-a-Cath can be used right after it is put in
- Once the cut has fully healed (usually about 2 weeks after the surgery), you can have a bath and swim

If you no longer need your Port-a-Cath, you will have another surgery to take it out. Your doctor will talk to you about this if or when it is the right time.

### **Go to your nearest **Emergency Department** if:**

- You have a fever after your Port-a-Cath is put in
- You have chills, chest pain, or difficulty breathing
- Pain, swelling, redness, or fluid coming out of your the cut from the surgery to put in your Port-a-Cath
- Swelling in the arm or neck of the side where your Port-a-Cath was put in