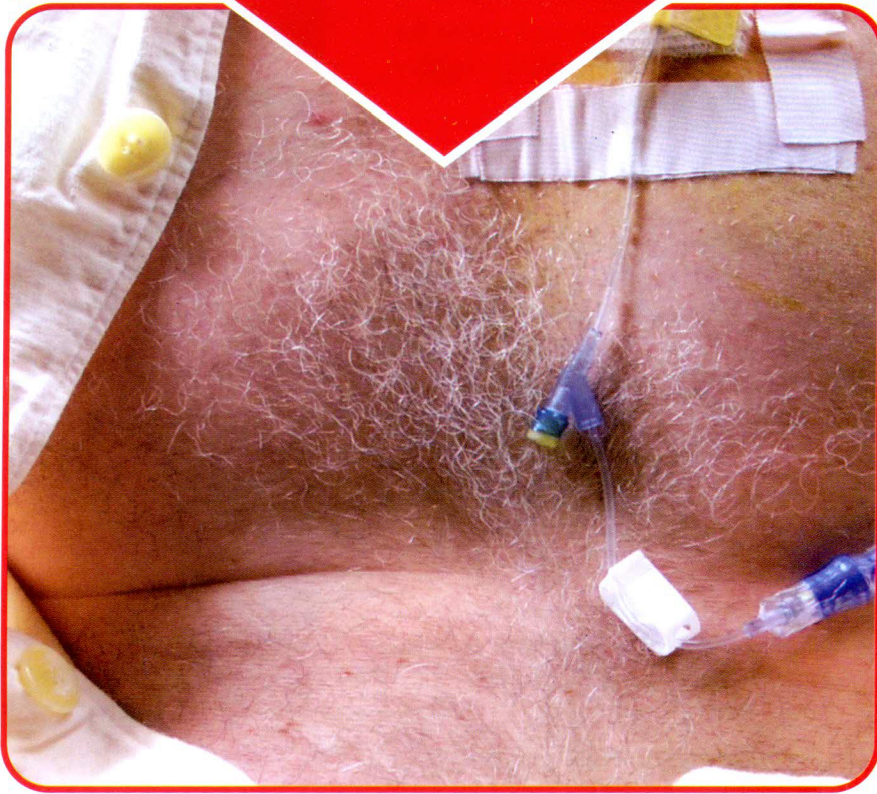


Port-a-Catheter

A Guide For Patients/Families



This brochure provides information about Port-a-Catheter and its care. It is designed to respond to questions most frequently asked by patients and their families



آغا خان یونیورسٹی ہسپتال، کراچی

The Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi.
P.O. Box 3500, Stadium Road, Karachi-74800, Pakistan.
Website: www.aku.edu



What is Port-a-Catheter?

It is an implanted infusion port that consists of a self-sealing injection port, housed in a plastic or metal case and connected to a silicon catheter. It is placed under the skin with the incision being offset in relation to the septum of the device.



Why is This Catheter Inserted?

The Port-a-Catheter will be used to access your blood stream. Using a special needle, the port can easily be reached through the skin. The port can then be used to deliver intravenous fluids, medications or blood products.



Where is This Catheter Implanted?

For early access and stability, ports are implanted under skin of the chest (Pectoral region).

Are There any Advantages in Having This Port?

1. It is a safe and reliable method for repeated vascular access..
2. There is no need for frequent dressing changes.
3. There is no restriction of patient activity.
4. There is minimal chances site for potential infection.





How do I need to Care for my Port-a-Catheter?

- The area around the Port-a-Catheter may be tender and swollen for a few days. This is normal and should disappear in about 10 to 14 days.
- You may remove the dressing after 24-48 hours, or as your doctor recommends.
- You must shower or take a bath after the dressing has been removed. (You may wash the incision site).
- The Port-a-Catheter can be used right away unless there is a great deal of bruising or swelling.
- Call your nurse/doctor if you have
 1. A high temperature;
 2. Redness at the insertion site;
 3. Pain;
 4. Drainage from the insertion site.

When Do I need to Come for Follow-Up?

Your Port-a-Catheter must be flushed every four weeks (to keep the catheter open and) to ensure that it is working properly. Your doctor/nurse will tell you when flushing should be scheduled (see the schedule attached). This flushing is done in D2 unit from 2:00 PM till 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

Note:

Do not allow untrained people to handle or use the port.

For further information, please call:

Oncology ward D2
(Monday to Friday)
From 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Aga Khan University Hospital
Karachi.
Phone : 34930051, Ext : 1422-23

Emergency Room
24 Hours
Aga Khan University Hospital
Karachi.
Phone: 34930051, Ext : 1422-23



