

## **IMPLANTABLE PORTS**

### **What is a Mediport?**

A Mediport is an implantable device which is used to deliver medications into the bloodstream. Implanted means that the device is placed beneath the skin. The port will be visible as a small, raised area beneath your skin. Daily care is generally not required after the wound has healed, and it does not affect your normal activities. The Mediport is made from special medical grade materials designed for safe, long-term use in the human body. The Mediport has a raised septum, which is made from a self-sealing rubber material. The septum is where the needle is inserted for delivery of medications.

### **How does the port work?**

Once the port is placed beneath the skin it is ready to be used for delivery of medication. The venous port also provides an easy method for collecting blood samples. When medical treatment or a blood sample is needed, a special needle is placed through the septum of the port, which connects to the catheter.

### **Caring for your port**

During the first few days after receiving the Mediport, it will be important to avoid any heavy exertion and to follow any special instructions given for care of the small incision. Once the incision has healed you will not have to take any special care of the port and can resume your normal daily activities.

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### *Will the port affect my normal daily activities?*

For the first few days after you receive the port, try to avoid strenuous activities. Once your incision heals, you should be able to resume normal daily activities such as bathing, swimming or jogging while the port is not in use.

#### *Will I need to wear a bandage over the port?*

A bandage will be required until your incision heals. Once the healing has occurred, a bandage is not required if the port is not being used.

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## **IMPLANTABLE PORTS** **(continued)**

*What do I do if I have a question or suspect a problem?*

Remember that following the procedure you will experience some redness and tenderness in the area of the incision, which normally subsides in the first 24 to 48 hours. However, contact your doctor or nurse if you notice unusual changes in the skin area over the port, such as increased swelling, redness or soreness. If you experience pain, fever, chills, shortness of breath or dizziness, contact your doctor immediately.

*Will the port activate security alarms?*

Security systems will most likely not detect the small amount of metal in the port.

*How long will I have my port?*

The port can stay in place as long as your doctor feels you need it.

*Can the port be removed if I no longer need it?*

Yes, the port can be removed by your doctor in a procedure similar to the one used to initially implant it.