

# Problems With Your Port



Your implanted port or Mediport can be used for as long as you need it, or as long as it is working well. Your nurse uses sterile technique when there is need to use your port to keep it clean and protected. Flushing after it is used helps prevent infection and keeps your port working well. This care is part of preventing problems but sometimes things happen. You need to know if there is a problem and what you should do.

## **If you notice:**

- **Resistance is felt when flushing the catheter**
- **Fluid will not flow into the catheter**

Make sure the tubing is not kinked or clamped. **Do not force** the flushing solution into the catheter. Call your doctor or nurse right away.

A blood clot may have formed in or on the catheter that may block the flow of solution. Flushing your catheter as you are directed should prevent this problem.

## **If you have:**

- **Redness, swelling, tenderness, warmth, or drainage at the exit site**
- **Fever, chills, extreme dizziness, tiredness, unable to function**
- **Temperature over 100.5 degrees**

Call your doctor or nurse right away. You can expect to plan a visit to be checked.

Germs can grow around the exit site or in the blood to cause an infection. Check your sutures and skin over the port every day for any signs of infections. Your nurse will use sterile technique when entering your port to reduce the risk of infection. Cleaning your exit site and changing the dressing as directed should help prevent this problem. Keep your port site clean and dry when it is not in use.

## **If you have:**

- **Chest pain, extreme discomfort or burning**
- **Swelling in your skin above and around the port**
- **Leakage of fluid out of the skin around the port or pain when fluid is injected**

Call your doctor or nurse right away.

The needle may have come out of the port and fluid is leaking into the tissues around the port. Be sure the needle and tubing are taped in place when the port is being used.

**If you notice:**

- **Swelling or discomfort in the upper arm or shoulder on the same side as the port**

Call your doctor or nurse right away.

The catheter has irritated your vein. There is nothing you could have done to prevent this problem.

**If you would like more written information, please call the Library for Health Information at (614)293-3707. You can also make the request by e-mail: [health-info@osu.edu](mailto:health-info@osu.edu).**

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- ▶ Upon request all patient education handouts are available in other formats for people with special hearing, vision and language needs, call (614) 293-3191.