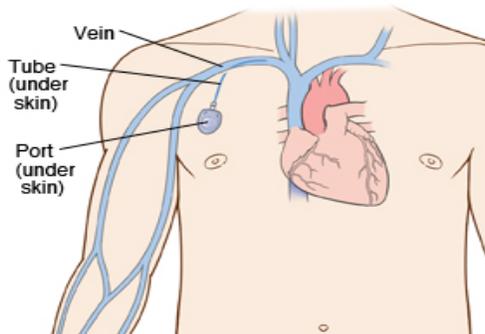


# Vascular Access Port Implantation

Port implantation is surgery to place (implant) a port under the skin. For vascular access, it is placed into a vein. The port allows medications or nutrition to be sent straight into your bloodstream. Blood can also be taken or given through the port. During the procedure, a long, thin tube called a catheter is threaded into one of your large veins. The tube is then attached to the port. This usually sits under the skin of the chest and causes a small bump. To use the port, a special needle is passed through the skin and into the port. The needle can stay in the skin for up to 7 days, if needed. A port can stay in place for weeks or months.



## Why Is a Vascular Access Port Needed?

A vascular access port may allow healthcare providers to give you:

- Chemotherapy or other cancer-fighting drugs.
- IV treatments, such as antibiotics or nutrition.
- Regular blood draws.
- Hemodialysis (for kidney failure)

## During the Procedure

- Before the procedure, an IV may be put into a vein in your arm or hand. This gives you fluids and medications. Medication to help you relax during the procedure may be given through the IV. This is called sedation.
- The chest is used most often for the port. In some cases, abdomen (belly) or arm is used instead.
- The skin over the insertion area is numbed with local anesthetic.
- X-rays are used to help the doctor see inside the body during the procedure.
- An incision is made in the skin where the port will be placed. A small “pocket” for the port is formed under the skin.
- A second small incision is made in the skin near the first incision. A “tunnel” under the skin is created. The catheter is put through the tunnel and into the blood vessel. The skin is closed over the port. It is held shut with sutures (stitches) or surgical glue or tape.
- A chest x-ray may be done to make sure the port is placed properly.