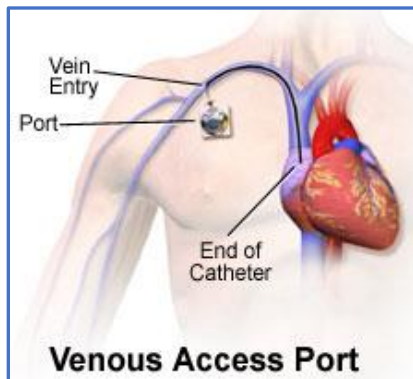


Central Venous Port Placement

A central venous port is a tunneled central venous catheter that is used for long-term placement for treatment of cancer, infection, or to supply nutrition. This allows administration of medications that must be delivered into a large vein and need to be given on a repeated basis, such as administration of chemotherapy for cancer treatment. The catheter is usually inserted into a vein underneath the collar bone (subclavian vein) or in the neck (internal jugular vein), and its tip is positioned in the large vein just above the heart (superior vena cava). The other end of the catheter is at an access port that lies underneath the skin on the upper chest, allowing the entire catheter to lie under the skin. The port can be accessed with a needle to give medications. The catheter and port can be removed when no longer needed.



The catheter and port are usually placed in the operating room using either general anesthesia or local anesthesia with sedation. All sutures will be placed underneath the skin and will dissolve on their own.

Port placement is generally a very safe procedure, but complications can rarely occur, including:

- Bleeding, caused by inserting the catheter into the vein. This is usually mild and self-limiting. Severe bleeding is very rare.
- Infection, which may require treatment with antibiotics or removal of the catheter
- Blood clots, which can form around the catheter or block the catheter from within
- Kinking of the catheter, which may require repositioning or replacement
- Pain
- Collapsed lung (pneumothorax), which may require placement of a tube to re-expand the lung

Your surgeon will discuss these further with you before your procedure. We are honored to assist in your medical care and look forward to meeting you!