

- After use, the chemoport needs to be flushed with heparin solution.
- If the chemoport is not used, it may need to be flushed with heparin solution at least once a month or as per doctor's advice. This helps to remove minor clots in the chemoport.

Are there any precautions to look out for?

The child should be brought to see the doctor if there are any of the following:

- Fever more than 38 degrees.
- Pain over the wound site.
- Redness over the chemoport site or wounds.
- Discharge from the wound.
- Difficulty in breathing.
- Chest pain.

When and how will the chemoport be removed?

- ❖ The chemoport will be removed when the treating doctor decides that it is no longer needed or if there are any evidence of infection of the chemoport.
- ❖ The chemoport will need to be removed surgically under general anesthesia.

Useful contact numbers:-

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**UNIVERSITY
OF MALAYA**
MEDICAL CENTRE

Patient Information Sheet – Chemoport

What is a chemoport?

- ☐ It is a device placed under the skin over the upper chest to facilitate easy intravenous treatment (usually chemotherapy) and blood taking.

How does it work?

- ☐ The device will be connected to a tube that is placed into a large vein usually in the neck.
- ☐ A needle is used to puncture the skin, through the septum of the chemoport for access.

What are the advantages of a chemoport?

- ❖ Prevent multiple needle pricks.
- ❖ Able to be used for months or longer as required.
- ❖ No dressing is needed after the wound has healed.
- ❖ No restriction of activity after the wound has healed. The child is able to bathe, exercise and swim when the needle is not in place.

How is it inserted?

- ❖ The device needs to be inserted surgically under general anesthesia.
- ❖ Prior to the surgery, the skin has to be cleaned by frequent baths or as advised by the physician.
- ❖ Routine blood test is required to assess fitness prior to surgery.
- ❖ Two incisions are usually made, one at the upper chest, another overlying the vein intended to be used commonly over the neck.



What are the risks?

- ☐ The surgery is generally safe.
- ☐ The risk of surgery include bleeding, wound infections, and rarely injury to the vein or surrounding organs.
- ☐ Infections usually arise from organisms from the patient's own skin or not following sterile precautions while using it.



What is the care after surgery?

- After surgery, the wound will be dressed and should be kept dry for at least 48 hours.
- Pain relief will be given as the child will feel pain at the incision sites. A needle may be in place in the chemoport immediately for use after surgery. The stitch over the wound need not be removed and will dissolve after a few weeks.

What is the general care of the chemoport?

- ◆ A special needle will be used to access the chemoport.
- ◆ A numbing cream (EMLA) will be applied over the chemoport at least 30 minutes before the needle insertion to reduce pain.
- ◆ The procedure must be performed in sterile conditions by the doctor or nurse.
- ◆ The needle may be left there for the duration of the treatment for up to 1 week before it needs to be changed to reduce risk of infection.