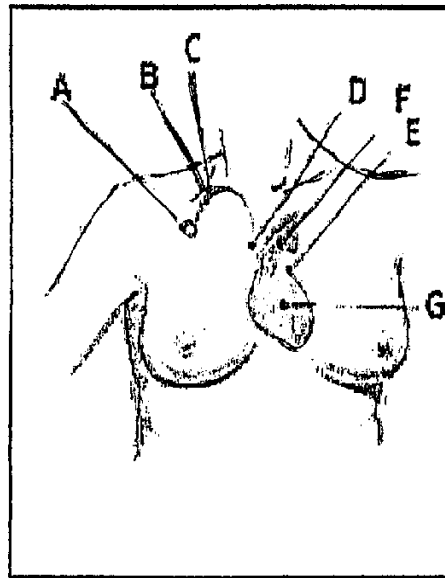


## Port-a-cath for Chemotherapy

Dr. Cusick, Dr. Beck, or your oncologist may recommend that you have a port or “port-a-cath” inserted in your upper chest wall (the space between your collarbone and your breast) to make chemotherapy easier and more comfortable for you. This is a same day procedure that is performed under conscious sedation or general anesthesia. When chemotherapy is over, the port can be removed in a same-day office procedure.



**Port inserted  
in vein for  
chemotherapy**

**A Port  
B Catheter  
[tubing]  
C Subclavian  
vein  
D Superior  
Vena cava  
E Pulmonary  
vein  
F Aorta  
G Heart**

The port is about the size of a quarter, only thicker, and will show only as a bump underneath the skin. There are several benefits to having a port:

- No need to find a vein every time you receive chemo. A special needle fits right into the port, avoiding the need to search for a vein in the arm each time you receive chemo. The nurse may numb the skin first with ice or a cream, to lessen any pain or discomfort.
- The medication goes right into the main blood supply entering the heart, so it can be sent quickly and efficiently to all parts of the body.
- Some types of chemotherapy can be very uncomfortable if injected into a vein in the arm. The port avoids this potential discomfort.

You will have pre-op instructions given to you by the doctor or nurse before your port is inserted. This will include food/drink restrictions, and the management of blood thinners and aspirin products. You will need a ride home the day of the procedure.

After the procedure, you may experience slight swelling in your neck or chest area. There also may be bruising and tenderness around the surgical site. These symptoms usually last a few days and should subside. A cold pack after surgery and an anti-inflammatory or pain medication taken as directed should help alleviate most discomfort. Sitting upright or reclined for the first few hours after your procedure can help prevent swelling. You should call your surgeon if pain or swelling worsens instead of slowly improving.

Risks of the procedure include bleeding, infection, and a pneumothorax.