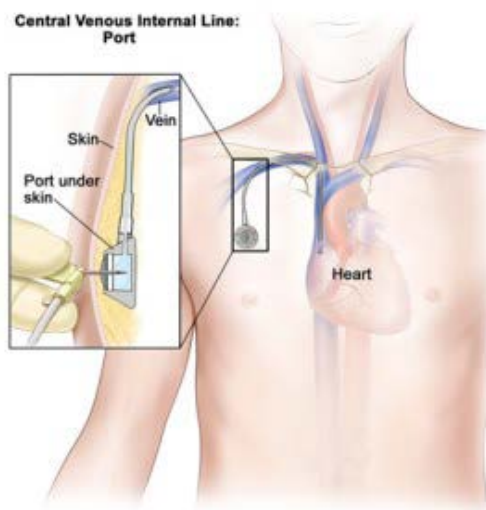
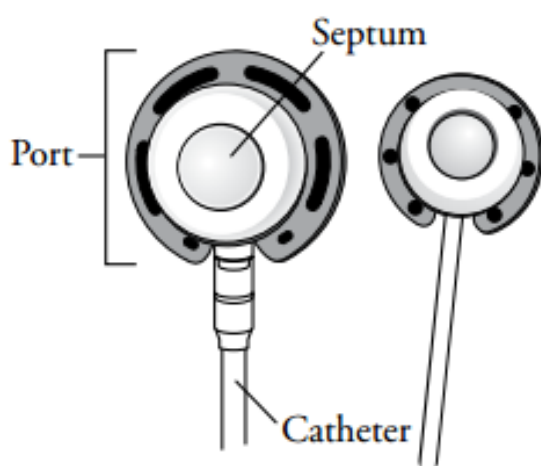


What is a central venous access device (mediport)?

A mediport is a device that is surgically implanted under the skin. The port is placed into the subcutaneous tissue under the skin and the catheter is connected to a large vein that empties into the heart. The device consists of a catheter made of silicone or polyurethane that is attached to either a titanium or plastic reservoir. This is covered with a silicone rubber septum that is self-sealing.



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What are the benefits of a mediport?

Mediports have a **low risk of infection** because the skin completely covers the device. Additionally, they do not require much maintenance, and do not conflict with clothing, playing, bathing, or even swimming. Because it is a central venous catheter, it can be used for long-term IV therapy.

How does the mediport work?

Your mediport will just look like a small, raised area underneath your skin. The middle of the port is raised and is called the **septum**. A special needle is inserted into the septum to put medications or fluids into or to take blood out of the port. It will feel like a small poke when the needle is placed into the skin to get to the septum of the mediport. However, numbing medications may sometimes be used to help with this discomfort.

There is a **catheter** (tubing) inside the body that is connected to the septum. This tubing carries the medication or fluids right into the blood. Once the needle is removed from the skin, fluids and blood should not leak out. Your Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) can provide you with more in-depth training and education on how to access and care for your mediport.

Can I bathe or shower?

It may take some time for your mediport incision to heal, but once this heals, you can bathe and shower like you regularly would since skin completely covers the port.

Do I need to wear special clothing?

Depending on the location of your mediport, tight clothing or undergarments may need to be avoided around the area of the port, especially if they are causing irritation to the skin over your port.

When do I need to call my doctor?

It takes some time for the mediport to heal, but once it is healed, you should call your doctor if you have any:

- Swelling
- Redness
- Fever
- Chills, especially when flushing your port
- Drainage
- Pain
- Dizziness

This list is not all inclusive, so if you are ever in doubt about whether or not you should call your doctor about anything related to your port, do not hesitate to contact them.

When in doubt, we ask that you call our office for recommendations.

- To reach a nurse, please call **(309) 692-5337**.
- After regular business hours, please call **(309) 677-6085** to reach the provider on call.

