Know your Port-A-Cath

JurongHealth
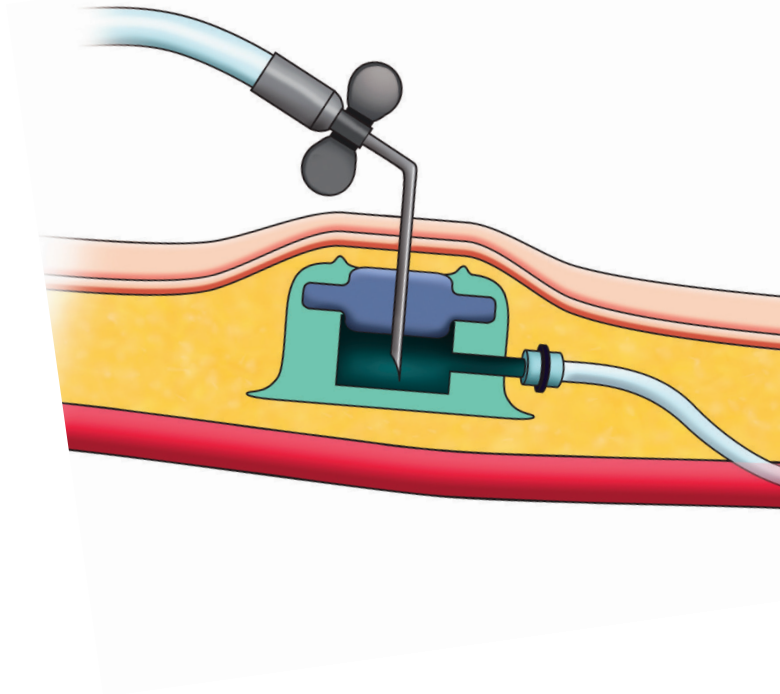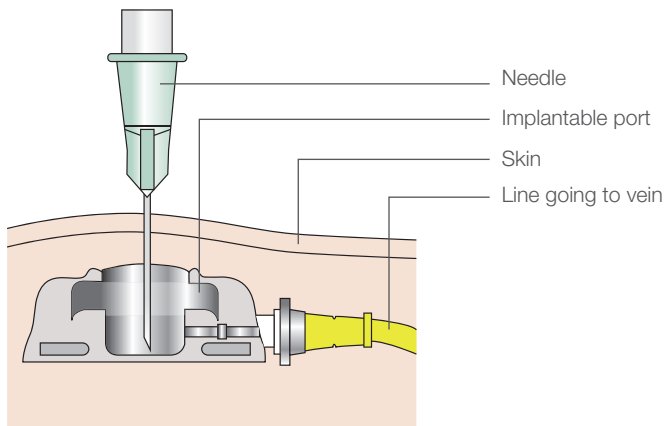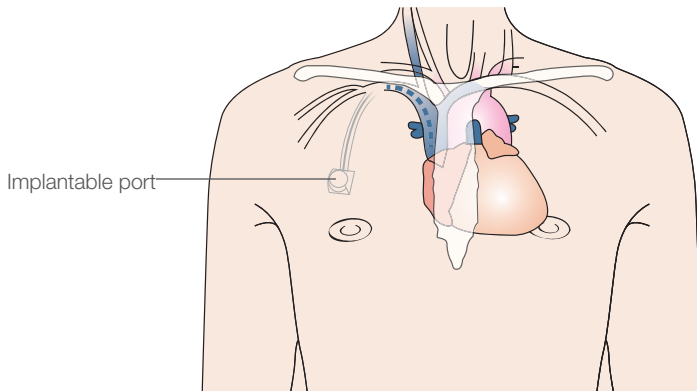
Why do you need an implanted Port-A-Cath?

Your doctor has prescribed treatment that requires the frequent administration of medications or other fluids directly into your bloodstream and has recommended a Port-A-Cath implantable venous access system as the best way for you to receive medications or other fluids. The implanted port will be placed completely under the skin. Daily care is generally not required as it will not affect your normal activities.

Inserting a Port-A-Cath

The insertion of the Port-A-Cath is a small surgical procedure that takes less than an hour. It will be performed by a radiologist under local anaesthesia. A doctor will place the port just beneath your skin, in a position that is most suitable for treatment and insert the end of the catheter into the blood vessel that has been identified to receive medication. Normally the port is placed on the upper chest in an area just below the collarbone.

You may have a suture to cover the small incision in the right side of the neck as well as a suture at the site of incision below your collar bone.

Implantable port

Needle

Implantable port

Skin

Line going to vein

Preparing for the procedure

You will need to give your consent before the procedure. Do not eat or drink anything 8 hours before the procedure. Please inform your doctor of any medications you are taking. Certain medications will need to be stopped a few days before the procedure.

Post-procedure care

- You may experience some pain as the anaesthesia wears off. Your doctor may prescribe painkillers to help you control the pain.

- Leave your dressing on for 48 hours and keep it dry.

- Remove your dressing after 48 hours and keep your wound clean and dry at all times. You may shower using a bath gel/foam and dab your skin gently to dry after shower.

- Avoid scratching your wound if it itches. Itchiness is a sign of your wound healing.

- Once your wound has healed, you may not need to take any special care of the port and can resume normal daily activities.

- Avoid sleeping on the side that the Port-A-Cath has been inserted for the first 2 to 3 days.

- Avoid any strenuous activities for 3 to 4 days.

The port may be in place as long as your treatment requires it. A surgical procedure will be needed if your doctor decides to remove the port.

Port-A-Cath flushing

This procedure will be done by a trained nurse.

- During active treatment, it will be flushed after each treatment.
- When the port is not in use, it will be flushed once every 4 weeks. Your nurse will inform you when to return to the hospital for a monthly Port-A-Cath flushing procedure.

Possible complications

You may call our Oncology Resource Hotline at 9635 2537 from 8.30am to 5.00pm (Monday to Friday) or proceed to the Emergency Department outside of our operating hours if you experience any of these symptoms:

- Chest pain
- Pain, redness, swelling or drainage of pus or bleeding around the port site
- Swelling of the neck, face, arm on the side where the port is inserted
- Fever, chills, shortness of breath or dizziness

For more information

Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital
1 Jurong East St 21, Singapore 609606
General enquiries: 6716 2000 Fax: 6716 5500
www.ntfgh.com.sg

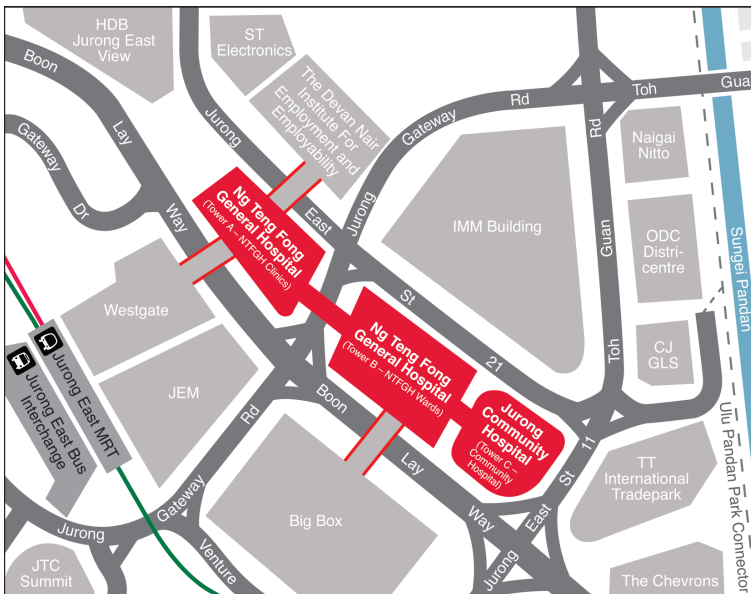**Clinical and appointment line hours (closed on Sundays and public holidays)**
For appointments, please call 6716 2222
Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

For dental appointments, please call 6716 2233
Monday - Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Getting there

By train
Jurong East MRT Station

By bus
From Jurong East Bus Interchange
SBS 49, 51, 52, 66, 78, 79, 97, 97e, 98, 98M, 105,
143, 143M, 160, 183, 197, 333, 334, 335, 506
Along Boon Lay Way
SBS 99, Private bus service 625