
NORPORT™

the drug delivery depot with a heart



An Implanted Drug Delivery Depot

PATIENT MANUAL

The information in this booklet is provided only as a reference by Norfolk Medical Products.

Your doctor and nurse are still your best source of information. Any questions that you have should be directed to them. Always follow their directions concerning the use and maintenance of your NorPort™ Implanted Port.

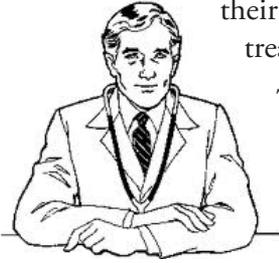
Norfolk  Medical™

7350 N. Ridgeway, Skokie, IL 60076 USA

tel. 847-674-7075 • fax. 847-674-7066 • info@norfolkmedical.com

NORPORT™ is a trademark of Norfolk Medical Products, Inc.

This device is designed to help people continue their normal activities while receiving medical treatments.



The unique feature of an implantable port is that it is placed completely under the skin. This placement allows almost complete freedom of movement for the patient.

Your doctor has recommended a **NorPort™ Access System** for several reasons. When the port is in place, repeated access to the bloodstream or a specific site to administer therapy or withdraw blood can be accomplished with greater ease and less discomfort. In addition, the port requires minimal maintenance.

The information contained in this booklet will help you understand and answer some of the questions you may have regarding your **NorPort™ Access Port**. Please remember, the information in this booklet is not a substitute for medical care and you should direct your questions and follow the advice of your healthcare provider concerning your implantable port and medical treatment.

What is the NorPort™ Implanted Port?

The **NorPort™** implanted port is a device that is used to deliver medications into the bloodstream and prevents damage to the veins that can be caused by frequent use or caustic drugs. The **NorPort™** implanted port is placed under the skin and will only be visible as a small 'raised area' beneath your skin.

The **NorPort™** is made of medical grade materials designed for safe, long-term use in the human body and allows for safe and easy delivery of drugs, fluids or blood products.

The **NorPort™** is a small disk about 1½ inches in diameter. The port has a raised center for the septum, which is made from a self-sealing rubber material. The septum is where the needle is inserted for

delivery of your medication. The medication is carried from the port into the bloodstream through a small flexible tube called the catheter.

The NorPort™ is available in a variety of shapes and sizes. Your physician has chosen the NorPort™ most appropriate for your body type and therapy.

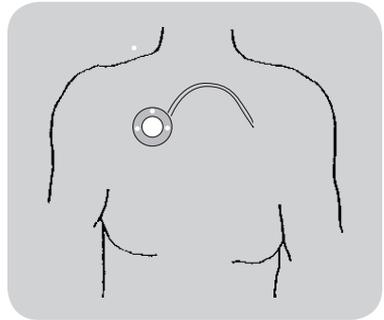
Remember your doctor and nurse are your best sources of information. Any further questions you have should be directed to them.

How is the NorPort™ Implanted?

The NorPort™ is placed during a brief surgical procedure that is usually performed under local anesthesia. You may even be allowed to return home the same day.

Where is the NorPort™ Placed?

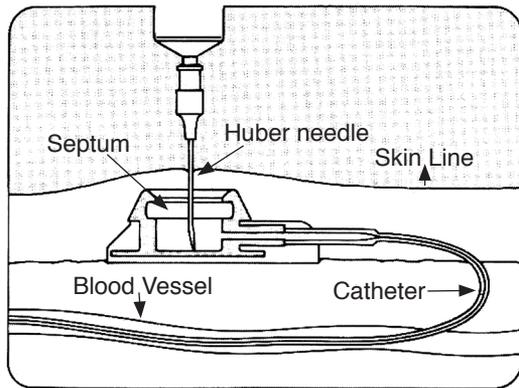
Your doctor will place the port beneath the skin and insert the end of the catheter into the blood vessel that has been selected to receive the medication. Your doctor will locate the port in a position most suitable for your treatment. Frequently, it is placed on the upper chest just below the collarbone.



How does the NorPort™ Work?

Once the port is placed beneath the skin, it is ready to be used for safe and easy delivery of medication into the bloodstream. The NorPort™ also provides an easy method for collecting blood samples. When a medical treatment or blood sample is needed, a special needle

called a "Huber" point is inserted through the skin and septum of the port into the reservoir. Because the reservoir is attached to the catheter that was placed in a blood vessel, the medication reaches your bloodstream.



For most patients there is only a mild pricking sensation felt during needle insertion. Frequently, the sensation of the needle decreases over time.

Care of your NorPort™

During the first few days after receiving the port, it will be important to avoid any heavy exertion and to follow any special instructions the doctor gave you for care of the small incision. Once the incision has healed, you will not have to take any special care of the port and can resume your normal daily activities.

Use of your NorPort™

The port can be used to deliver medications in two ways. One method, called **Bolus Injection**, delivers the medication all at once with the needle left in place for a short time. The other method is a slow delivery of medication called a **Continuous Infusion**. For this type of medication, a dressing will usually be placed over the needle to hold it in the port for a longer time period, and a small tube will connect it to the medication source. Regardless of how you receive your treatment, the use of the NorPort™ will be easy and convenient for both you and your physician or nurse.

After each treatment, and occasionally between treatments if the port is not used often, the port and catheter are flushed/injected with a special solution containing Heparin. Heparin is a drug that prevents blood from clotting in the catheter.

Answers to some questions you may have about the port

Will the port affect my normal daily activities?

For the first few days after you receive the port, try to avoid strenuous activities. Once your incisions have healed you should be able to resume normal daily activities such as bathing, swimming, or jogging while the port is not in use. Your doctor and nurse are the best persons to answer any questions about specific activities and the appropriate time to resume them.

Will I need to wear a bandage over the port?

A bandage will be required until your incision heals. Once your incision has healed, a bandage is not required if the port is not being used. If you are receiving continuous infusions, a bandage may be applied to stabilize and protect the needle while it is in place.

Will I be limited as to what clothing I can wear?

Your doctor and nurse are the best persons to consult since the answer will vary according to where the port is placed. Clothing such as suspenders or certain types of bra straps may need to be avoided.

What do I do if I have a question or suspect a problem?

Remember that following surgery you will experience some redness and tenderness in the area of the incision which normally subsides in the first 24-48 hours. However, contact your doctor or nurse if you notice unusual changes in the skin area over the port such as increased swelling, redness or soreness. If you experience pain, fever, chills, shortness of breath, or dizziness, contact your doctor immediately.

What do I do if my doctor is unavailable?

You will be provided with a wallet-sized Medical Alert Patient Identification Card that contains important information about the port. With this information, other qualified medical personnel will be able to provide assistance.

Will the insertion of the needle into the reservoir be painful?

The needle used to enter the reservoir is small. The sensation you experience is no different than having an I.V. started or getting blood drawn. It is probably best described as a 'sticking' or 'pricking' sensation. Once the needle is in the reservoir, you should not have any pain.

Who pays for the port?

Medical insurance normally covers part or all of the cost of the device, the surgeons fees, and related hospital expenses. Since policies vary, it is advisable to check with your insurance company first.

Will the port activate security alarms?

Security systems will most likely not detect the small amount of metal in the port. If it does occur, simply show your Medical Alert Patient Identification Card.

Will the port be affected by X-rays, MRI or other diagnostic tests?

There are no components in the port that could affect various methods of imaging.

How long will I have my port?

The port can stay in place as long as your doctor feels you need it.

Can the port be removed if I no longer need it?

Yes. The port can be surgically removed by your doctor in a procedure similar to the one used to initially implant the port.

Patient Instructions

1. For 1- 2 weeks after your port is implanted, there may be some pain, bruising, and swelling in the areas related to the surgery. After this post-operative period, the skin should appear 'normal' with only a slight bump noticeable under the skin where the port is placed.
2. Observe the skin over the port daily for signs of infection or other problems such as redness, tenderness, fluid leakage or pus, or movement of the reservoir. Be alert to feelings of malaise, flu-like symptoms, fever, pain or a burning sensation. Report any of these symptoms to your physician or nurse.
3. Do not manipulate or play with the port under the skin as it may become dislodged. If you notice any shift in position or movement of the port under the skin, notify your physician or nurse.
4. You may bathe, swim, work and exercise as normal once the incisions have healed. However, during an infusion into the port, water and other activities may be limited. Before any new activity, always confirm it with your physician or nurse.
5. Check with your physician before having dental work done as antibiotics may be necessary.
6. It is important to always carry your Medical Alert Patient Identification Card with pertinent medical information. This is particularly important in the event of an emergency so that medical personnel will be aware that you have a port. For your convenience, we have included an Identification Card in this manual. Prior to leaving the hospital, have your physician or nurse help you fill in the information. Remember to have this card with you when you visit your doctor, hospital or clinic, or dentist so that the information on your port will be immediately available.

Important Information

Patient Name:

Surgeon:

Hospital:

Surgery Date:

Oncologist:

Patient ID Card

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