Implanted port

An implanted port is a type of central venous (large vein) access device. By using it, you can get medicines or fluids without having a needle stick in your vein each time. It is used when:

- the veins in your arm are small
- you must have an IV often
- you must have an IV for a long period of time
- your medicine needs to be given into a larger vein than those in your arm

An implanted port is placed totally under the skin. This is done with minor surgery. The doctor puts the port in through a small incision in the upper chest, arm or abdomen. This device is often used for people who need chemotherapy.

The port is a hard, metal or plastic disk that is about 1 inch in diameter. In the center of the disk is a rubber-like membrane. A special needle that won't damage the membrane (Huber needle) is placed into the skin over the port and through the membrane. Medicines or fluids then flow into the port chamber and through the catheter into a large vein near the heart.

An implanted port is easy to care for. Once the incision has healed, you can go about your normal daily routine.