



After Port-a-Cath Insertion

1. Keep the dressing dry for _____ hours. You may remove it after _____ hours.
2. After removing the dressing, you may shower. Wash the incision with soap and water, then pat dry.
3. If you see drainage at the site, cover the site with a dressing as needed. Remove and change the dressing each day.

Note: For accessed ports only: When the port-a-cath is no longer accessed (i.e., when the needle has been removed), follow steps 2 and 3.

4. If “Steri-strips” are used, leave them in place until they fall off (about 7 to 10 days).
5. If Dermabond is used, there will be no dressing. Dermabond will stay in place for 5 to 10 days; then fall off on its own.
6. Limit activity involving your arms for the next 72 hours. Do no strenuous exercise or activity for 1 week.
7. If you have pain, use Tylenol, Motrin, or Advil, if no other pain medication was prescribed.
8. If you have any of the following signs of infection, contact your medical staff fellow via the NIH page operator at **301-496-1211**:
 - fever
 - chills
 - increased redness and tenderness at the site
 - excessive drainage from the site
9. When you receive a new Port-a-Cath, you will get a product guide and ID card. Please keep them in case you need them.

Other Instructions:

Contacts (Reach the staff members below through the NIH page operator at **301-496-1211**.)

Your Doctor:

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health-care team.

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Questions about the Clinical Center?
<http://www.cc.nih.gov/comments.shtml>

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