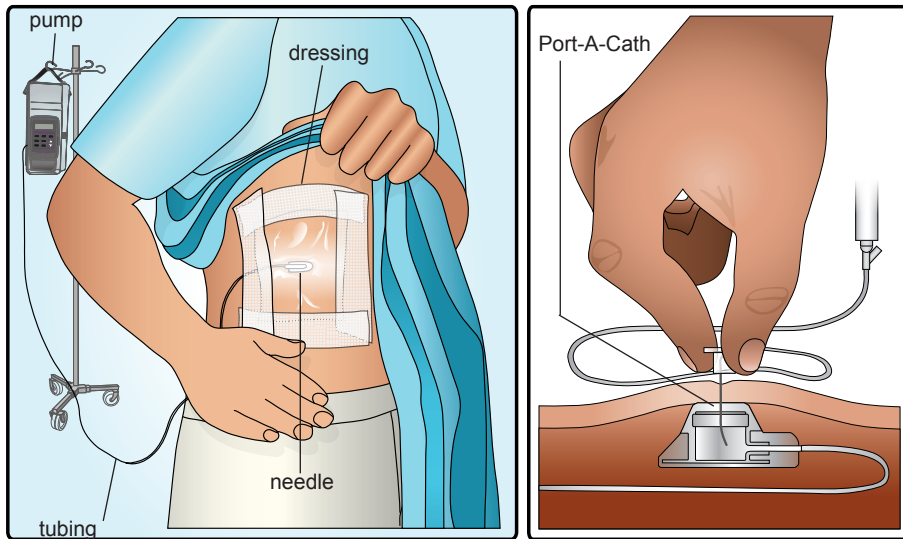


# Intraspinal Pain Device with Implanted Port-A-Cath



## What is this?

Your doctor will place a flexible tube (catheter) in the intrathecal space (see drawing on page 5) and rather than exit the skin, the catheter is connected to a Port-a-Cath placed under your skin in your belly.

A needle and tubing will be placed through your skin into the Port-a-Cath. To protect your skin, you will always have a dressing over this area.

The dressing and needle will need to be changed weekly by your nurse.

A pump will be attached to the needle to deliver medication continuously or only at specific times of the day.

If a pump is not attached to the needle and tubing, you and a family member will be taught how to give yourself the medication.

## How does it work?

If you are staying in the hospital, the medication will be given to you by your nurse using a pump which will deliver medication continuously or only at specific times of the day.

If you are living at home, you and a family member will be taught to inject the medication. It is simple and safe. You and your doctor will discuss which option is best for you.

## How do I take care of this?

The external tubing should feel comfortable.

**Avoid taking baths.** You can shower after covering the dressing and tubing on your skin. Your nurse will show an easy way to protect the external tubing and dressing with a folded plastic bag.

**Avoid activities** that might damage the tubing or dressing such as swimming. You can discuss this further with your nurse.

**If you are living at home,** you will have an appointment with the nurse at the hospital every week. During the visit, the nurse will do an evaluation of your pain and also change the dressing, needle and tubing on your skin.

Your pain medication may be adjusted at this time, if necessary.

## KEY POINTS

- Delivers medication to your spine.
- Every day, write the level of pain you feel in your Pain Intensity Scale and Diary.
- The Port-A-Cath, needle, and dressing may affect your body image.
- This treatment will not limit your mobility.
- Report any side effect that you have to the doctor or nurse during your visit at the clinic.