



Tampa Bay Breast Care Specialists

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Port Placement

A port placement is an outpatient surgical procedure that gives your oncologist access to a vein to administer chemotherapy treatment. The catheter is threaded to a major vein in the chest. A port is suggested for patients that need to go through a course of chemotherapy treatment, not just a treatment or two. This way the patient does not have to go through the constant discomfort of IV sticking. A port can also be used to draw blood and administer drugs and nutrients without any pain to the patient. Here is some general information on how to prepare for your procedure and what to expect. You can also read this section to prepare for the removal of your port.

Preparing for surgery day:

- Make sure you have someone that can drive you home after surgery.
- Refrain from eating or drinking anything after midnight before your surgery, unless otherwise specified by your doctor.
- We suggest wearing clothing that is loose and comfortable, as well as a sports bra or front closure bra.

At the surgery facility:

- You will have a designated time to arrive at the surgery center to check in and go through a preoperative assessment before your scheduled procedure.
- The procedure typically lasts an hour. The doctor will come out to speak with your party to let them know how you are doing afterwards.
- Your stay after surgery is usually 1-4 hours, unless plans were made for you to stay overnight.

What to expect after surgery:

- You will not need to come in to have your sutures removed since they dissolve over time. No post-op with us is needed as your medical oncologist will evaluate you.

About your wound:

- Skin glue is used to close your incision. If the area starts to bleed, you should reinforce the dressing with sterile gauze. You will keep the port covered in its bandage until your first chemotherapy treatment.
- You should be able to take a shower the day after surgery, but consult with your doctor or his staff to confirm.
- It is normal to have a small amount of bleeding and swelling.
- On most occasions, the only type of pain medication you need would be Tylenol, but the physician may prescribe you pain medication as well.
- If you decide to take prescription pain medication, you may add one regular-strength Tylenol. DO NOT exceed one Tylenol, since this is a popular prescription pain ingredient and we do not want you to overdose.
- Please be advised that taking prescription pain medications can alter your judgment and you should refrain from operating heavy machinery.

Authorization of Procedures and Billing

When we schedule your surgery, we will call your insurance company to verify coverage and get authorization. If we have any issue obtaining authorization, we will call you immediately. If you decide to pay out of pocket or if your insurance does not cover, our billing department will give you an estimation of how much your procedure will cost, as well as make payment arrangements. We are only responsible for the billing of the surgery our surgeon performs, so keep in mind that depending on the complexity of your situation, you may receive bills from the surgical facility where the surgery takes place, the radiologist, and the pathologist, just to name a few.

You should contact our office if you experience any of the following:

- You have a fever over 101.5 during the first week after surgery.
- Your wound feels tight and you are experiencing extreme pain.
- Your breast is extremely bruised other than around the surgical site.
- You are experiencing excessive nausea and/or vomiting.
- Blood continues to leak from your dressing. While you are trying to contact us, use a towel to hold firm pressure on your wound.

If your situation becomes a life-threatening or emergency situation, please call 911 or go straight to the Emergency Room. Please notify us so we may assist you and care for your needs.