Caring for Yourself after the Removal of Your Implanted Port or Broviac® Catheter for Pediatric Patients

This information explains how to care for yourself after your implanted port or Broviac® catheter is removed. For the rest of this resource, our use of the word “you” and “your” refers to you or your child.

Managing Your Pain

- When you wake up after your removal procedure, the area where you had your port or catheter will be numb. This is because your doctor used a local anesthetic (medication to make an area numb).

- The anesthetic will wear off after a few hours. If you’re in pain, take pain medication as recommended by your healthcare provider (HCP).

- Call your HCP if you still have pain after taking the medication.

About Your Incision

- You will have a bandage over your incision (surgical cut) site.

- You will have sutures (stitches) under your skin that dissolve and don’t need to be removed.

- You may see a clear string coming out of your incision. This is the end of the sutures. Your nurse may cut it off at your next appointment.
You will also have Steri Strips™ (thin strips of paper tape) or glue (Dermabond®) over your incision site under the bandage.

Your incisions will heal after 6 to 8 weeks.

Caring for your incision site

• Don’t shower for 48 hours (2 days) after your procedure. Keep the bandage over your incision clean and dry.

• After 48 hours, you can remove the bandage and shower. Wash your incision site gently with soap and water. Rinse your skin well and pat it dry with a soft towel.

• After your shower, you can leave your incision uncovered. You don’t need to put another bandage on.

• Don’t take a bath or go in a pool for 2 weeks after your procedure.

• The Steri Strips will start to loosen and fall off in 7 to 10 days. If they haven’t fallen off after 10 days, you can remove them.

Activities

• You can go back to your regular diet after your procedure.

• Don’t lift anything heavier than 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) for 2 weeks.

• Don’t play any contact sports (such as football or rugby) for 6 to 8 weeks.

• If you need a note for school or work, let us know.

Call Your Healthcare Provider if You Have:

• Any signs of infection around your incision site after the first few days such as:
  ○ Redness
  ○ Tenderness
  ○ Swelling
• Bruising

• Any discharge from your incision

• A fever of 100.4°F (38.0°C) or higher

• Pain that’s not controlled with medication

If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.