

# Vaxcel<sup>®</sup> Implantable Ports Valved and Non-Valved

A Patient's Guide



**Navilyst**  
Medical

# Vaxcel<sup>®</sup> Implantable Port

This pamphlet provides some answers to questions you may have about your implantable port and how to care for it at home. Remember to call your doctor or nurse with any specific questions and always follow the instructions that they give you.

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Information about your Vaxcel<sup>®</sup> Implantable Port is available by calling the Navilyst Medical Vascular Access Information Line 800.513.6876

# Why do I need an implantable port?

Your doctor has determined that as part of your treatment, you will need to receive your medications by intravenous (IV) injection. This method of drug delivery involves **infusion** of your medication into a large vein, a blood vessel that directs blood back to your heart.

Your doctor has also determined that your treatment will need to continue over a period of months. Insertion of an implantable port is intended to make this possible.

An implantable port is a special type of device that provides long-term access to blood vessels. The port is usually placed just under the skin on the upper part of the chest wall or of the upper arm. The smallest ports are often placed just under the skin on the arm.

An implantable port consists of a small, hollow chamber (the **port**) and a catheter. The area of self-sealing silicone rubber in the center of the port is called the **septum**. The **catheter** is a long, soft, hollow tube. One end of the catheter is securely connected to the port, and the other end is placed into a large vein.

There are a variety of port systems available. Some have a valve (A) that may be located in the area where the catheter joins the port, while others do not have a **valve** (B). Your physician will determine which is best for you. Both valved and non-valved ports can deliver the medications that you need. However, the care that each requires is different. Your physician or nurse will discuss the care of your specific port with you.



B. Non-Valved Port



# How is the Vaxcel® Implantable Port inserted?

Insertion of the Vaxcel Implantable Port is a brief procedure done under local or general anesthesia.

The skin on your chest and neck or arm is first cleaned to remove germs.

A small incision is made on your chest or arm to create a space or “pocket” for the port and a “tunnel” for the catheter. The port is inserted under the skin and into the pocket. One end of the catheter is threaded through the tunnel and connected to the port.

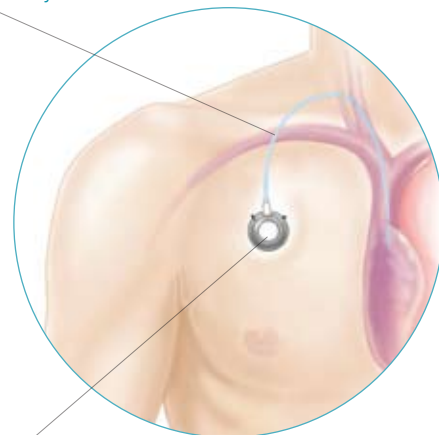
The other end of the catheter is inserted into a vein in your shoulder or your neck, or your arm. The tip is positioned near your heart to help dilute and distribute your medications.

Usually, x-rays are taken during the procedure to make sure the catheter is in the best position.

Your incision is stitched closed and covered with a dressing until it heals, a process that takes a few days.

## Chest Port Insertion Site

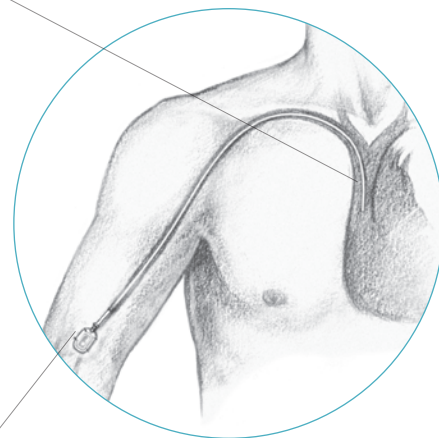
This part of the catheter is in a tunnel under your skin.



This is your chest port site which will be covered with a dressing for a few days until your incision heals.

## Arm Port Insertion Site

The catheter is inserted so that the tip rests near your heart.



Implantable arm port and catheter in place under the skin of the upper arm.

## How is the Vaxcel® Implantable Port used?

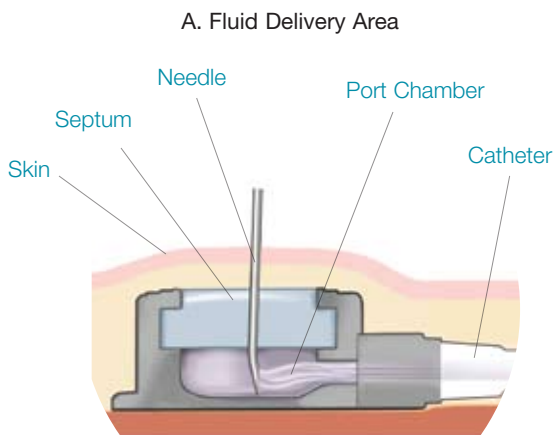
Once your Vaxcel Implantable Port is in place, you can begin your treatments right away.



Each time you receive a treatment, the skin over your port is cleaned. A small, special needle is then inserted through both your skin and the septum of the port (A). This needle allows fluid to be delivered into the port

chamber. From there, the fluid flows through the catheter into your bloodstream.

After the needle is in place, the nurse will first inject a solution to flush your port. Then, you will receive the fluid that contains your medication. In some cases, the medication can be delivered over a few minutes. In other cases, it must be delivered over a period of hours or days.



## How do I care for my Vaxcel® Implantable Port?

Your doctor or nurse will give you specific instructions about how to care for your bandage while your incision heals. In addition, you should follow some important general rules:

- Avoid heavy exertion or strenuous activities for the first few days after port insertion.
- Avoid touching or manipulating the port site as much as possible.
- Carry your Vaxcel Implantable Port travel card with you at all times.

Also...

**Check your skin around the port and tunnel site every day.** If you notice redness, tenderness, irritation, swelling or any unusual symptom, call your doctor or nurse immediately.

**Check the port site while you have a needle in place for delivery of your medication.** Immediately notify your doctor or nurse if you experience discomfort or swelling in the area around the port. You should also notify them if you notice any fluid leaking in the area.

### Note

If you have a port in your arm:

- Do not allow a blood pressure test to be taken on that arm.
- Do not allow a blood sample to be taken from that arm unless it is done through the port using a specially designed, “non-coring” needle which will not damage the port.

## Commonly asked questions

### **Q How long will I have my implantable port?**

**A** Your doctor or nurse can answer that question. Some people may need it for only a few weeks, others for several months. As long as the system is periodically flushed to keep the catheter from becoming blocked, the port can remain under the skin indefinitely.

### **Q Will my port cause any pain?**

**A** You may feel some soreness for a day or two after your port is inserted. This is normal. Once healed, there should be minimal pain associated with the device.

### **Q Will my insurance company cover the cost of my port?**

**A** Because coverage varies, you should check with your insurance company to be sure they cover your port and treatment.

### **Q Are there any activities that I shouldn't do with the port in place?**

**A** You should check with your doctor or nurse about any activity restrictions that they recommend for you. However, because the port is completely internal, you should be able to resume most of your normal activities between treatments.

### **Q What happens if my Vaxcel® Implantable Port stops working properly?**

**A** There are generally ways to treat any problems that may occur. Your doctor will first determine the cause of the problem and what should be done to correct it. If the problem cannot be corrected, the port can be replaced.

### **Q Can my port be used immediately after it is inserted?**

**A** Your healthcare provider will give you specific instructions about when the port can be used after placement.



## Commonly used terms

### Implantable Port

A drug delivery device with a hollow chamber—called the port—that is connected to a hollow, soft catheter.

### Septum

The self-sealing silicone rubber area in the center of the port. A special needle is inserted through the septum to deliver your medications.

### Catheter

Hollow tube connected to the port body that is inserted into a blood vessel (typically a vein).

### Valve

A feature in some implantable ports that separates the port chamber from the catheter.

### Infusion

The delivery of fluid and medication into a blood vessel.

## Recommended Flushing Protocols

(to be completed by your healthcare provider)

### Valved Implantable Port

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

After medication/TPN \_\_\_\_\_

After blood sampling \_\_\_\_\_

### Non-Valved Implantable Port

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

After medication/TPN \_\_\_\_\_

After blood sampling \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Instructions

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# TRAVEL CARD

Always carry your Vaxcel® Implantable Port Travel Card with you.

This card has important information about your implantable port that healthcare providers will need to care for you.

Fill out your personal information in the areas provided. Your Travel Card is conveniently sized to fit in a wallet.



26 Forest Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
Customer Service: 800.833.9973

## Travel Card

PATIENT NAME

HOSPITAL

DATE OF IMPLANT

IMPLANTING PHYSICIAN

IMPLANT VESSEL

IMPLANTING PHYSICIAN TELEPHONE

PRODUCT CODE

LOT NUMBER

## Vaxcel® Implantable Port

Flush with either saline or heparanized solution.

Consult your healthcare provider for specific requirements.

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TRAVEL CARD

Vaxcel® Implantable Ports

*Support for this product and other Navilyst Medical vascular access products is available by calling the Navilyst Medical Vascular Access Information Line*

**800.513.6876**



**VAXCEL® IMPLANTABLE SYSTEMS WITH PASV® VALVE TECHNOLOGY  
VAXCEL CHEST PORTS  
VAXCEL MICRO PORTS**

**INDICATIONS FOR USE:** The Vaxcel Implantable Port Systems and Vaxcel Implantable Port Systems with PASV Valve Technology are designed for long-term vascular access allowing for administration of IV fluids, blood products, medications, parenteral nutrition solutions and, in addition, for blood withdrawal.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** The device is contraindicated when: the presence of other device related infection, bacteremia, septicemia or peritonitis is known or suspected; severe chronic obstructive lung disease exists; past irradiation of prospective insertion site; previous episodes of venous thrombosis or vascular surgical procedures at the prospective placement site; local tissue factors will prevent proper device stabilization and/or access; anticipation or presence of other central venous intraluminal devices, including pacemakers, is expected; hypercoagulopathy condition exists, unless considerations are made to place the patient on anticoagulation therapy; presence or suspicion of allergic reaction to materials contained in this device is a potential risk; body size is insufficient to accommodate size of the portal or the catheter; demonstrated intolerance for an implanted device. Venous access to the upper torso may be contraindicated due to anatomical constraints, such as burns to the upper body, cervicothoracic trauma, planned radiation therapy to the mediastinum, bilateral neck dissection and infected median sternotomy incisions.

**CAUTION:** Federal Law (USA) restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.



Navilyst Medical, Inc.  
26 Forest Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
[www.navilystmedical.com](http://www.navilystmedical.com)

*For more information, call  
800.833.9973*

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