

Central Venous Catheter (CVC) Port Protector

A central venous catheter, also called a CVC, is a type of IV placed into a large vein in the body. You may hear it called a Central Line, Groshong, Hickman, Mediport or PICC. It is important to properly care for your CVC to reduce the risk of a blood stream infection. One way to help prevent an infection is to use a disinfecting port protector (such as a Curocap).

What is a Port Protector?

A port protector is a disposable cap that is used to cover and protect the injection cap at the end of the CVC line. Inside the port protector is a small amount of 70% Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol). This helps to keep the injection cap clean and helps to prevent bacteria and germs from getting into the blood stream. There are different types of port protectors, so you must follow the instructions given to you for how long to keep the port protector on the injection cap.

When do I need to use a Port Protector?

Port protectors can only be used one time. After the port protector is removed from the CVC, it must be thrown away and a new protector should be put on the injection cap.

What should I do if I do not have a Port Protector?

If you do not use a port protector, you must clean the injection cap with a new alcohol pad each time before the CVC is used. Scrub the injection cap with an alcohol pad for at least 15 to 30 seconds, then let the cap dry.

For more information about using a port protector on your CVC, talk with your health care team.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.