

**AL RAHBA HOSPITAL
VASCULAR SURGERY
Patient information**

PORTACATH

A Portacath is a kind of device for intravenous access for the patients who required frequent administration of intravenous medication. The name Portacath is a combination of two words, the Portal – reservoir compartment that has a silicon bubble for needle insertion (the septum) and an attached plastic tube (the catheter). The device is surgically inserted under the skin in the upper chest or in the arm and appears as a bump under the skin. The catheter runs from the Portal and is surgically inserted into the jugular vein, the subclavian vein or the basilic. The tip of catheter is placed in the lower part of Vena Cava above the Right Atrium.



Surgery

Implantation of the Portacath is done in local infiltration anesthesia. The device is placed under the skin in the upper chest or in the arm. The catheter attached to the portal is inserted into the vein and the catheter tip is placed into the upper Vena Cava. The device is locked with heparinized saline to prevent clot formation and blockage. The skin is closed and the Portacath can be used after one week. You can be discharged from the hospital the same day. You will have prescription for pain medication for 5 days. Control in the Vascular OPD after one week.

After Surgery

You will experience some redness and tenderness after surgery in the area of incision which normally subsides after 48 hours. A bandage will be required until your incision heals. You can remove the bandage after 24 hours and take a shower and apply a new one daily for the next five days. Once healing has occurred usually after one week a bandage is not required.

