Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Port-a-Cath (Access Port) Removal
Interventional Radiology

This leaflet provides information about the procedure, what to expect on the day, the potential risks and important information for afterwards.

Prior to the procedure, you may have a pre-assessment or telephone consultation, where you will have the opportunity to ask further questions.

Please note that this leaflet is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor. You should raise any questions you may have with the doctor who has referred you or with the doctor who will be performing the procedure.

Why do I need my Port-a-Cath removed?

Your Port-a-Cath may be removed if:

- Your treatment has been completed
- The port is no longer required
- The port has become blocked or is not working properly
- There is an infection involving the port
- There are complications related to the device

How do I prepare?

You should stop eating 6 hours prior the procedure, however you can drink 1 cup of clear water per hour until the procedure starts.

As it's a day case procedure, you need to arrange for an adult to collect you from the department and someone to stay with you overnight.

The procedure will take place in the Interventional Radiology (IR), within the Radiology Department at St. Peter's Hospital. When you arrive, you will be given a hospital gown to change into, and a staff may insert an IV cannula.

The doctor will discuss the procedure with you; answer any questions you may have and ask you to sign the consent form if you are happy to proceed.

The procedure will likely be performed under local anaesthetic. Intravenous pain relief and light sedation may also be given, to ensure you are as comfortable as possible.

If you are feeling unwell closer to the day of the procedure, please let the team know.

Tel: 01932 723470 **Email:** asp-tr.ir-referrals@nhs.net

How is the Port-a-Cath removed?

You will lie on a procedure table in the Interventional Radiology department.

The skin over the port will be cleaned and numbed with **local anaesthetic**.

A small incision is made over the existing scar and the port and attached catheter are carefully released and removed.

The vein usually seals naturally once the catheter is removed.

The incision is then closed using **dissolvable stitches**, **adhesive strips** and a dressing is applied.

The procedure usually takes **20-45 minutes**.

What are the potential risks and complications?

Port-a-Cath removal is a safe procedure, and complications are uncommon. However, possible risks include:

Pain or discomfort

- Mild discomfort at the removal site is common and occurs in up to **20-30% of patients**. This is usually short-lived and can be managed with simple pain relief.

Bruising or bleeding

- Bruising or minor bleeding occurs in approximately **5-10% of patients** and usually settles without treatment. Significant bleeding is uncommon (<1%).

Infection

- Infection at the wound site occurs in **less than 1-2% of cases** and may require antibiotics.

Difficulty removing the catheter

- Occasionally, scar tissue may make removal more difficult (**<1-2%**). Rarely, a small portion of the catheter may need additional procedures to remove.

Damage to nearby structures

- Injury to nearby blood vessels or nerves is very rare (**<1%**).

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Air entering the bloodstream (air embolism)

- This is extremely rare (**<0.1%**) and precautions are taken to prevent this.

Scarring

- A small scar will remain where the port was removed.

What happens afterwards?

After the procedure:

- You will be monitored in a recovery area for at least 2 hours.
- If the procedure involves sedation, then there will be a small delay before you can eat or drink after the procedure.
- Most patients can go home the same day

You should:

- Keep the dressing clean and dry for 7 days
- Avoid heavy lifting and strenuous activity for 7 days
- Expect some mild discomfort or bruising

Seek medical attention if you develop:

- Increasing redness, swelling, or pain at the site
- Fever or signs of infection
- Bleeding that does not stop
- Swelling of the neck, chest, or arm

Follow-up

You will need to come back to Interventional Radiology 1 week after the procedure for a dressing check. Follow-up arrangements and ongoing care of your Port-a-Cath will be discussed with your referring team or specialist nurses.

Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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St Peter's Hospital

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We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

You can use Text Relay to turn telephone communications into text. Use the Relay UK app on your phone, tablet or PC. You can also use Relay UK via Minicom or Uniphone.

اگر نیاز به ترجمه دارید، لطفا با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید.

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰਜਮੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

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