REMOVAL OF PORT-A-CATH

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You have completed your chemotherapy and no longer need to have your port in place. Removing the port is very simple. The same incision is used and the port-a-cath is dissected from the surrounding tissue and removed.

As always, here’s what to expect:

Morning of surgery:

Please check-in at the place and time Patricia has asked on your registration sheet.

Once checked-in, you will be taken to a pre-op room and asked to change into a hospital gown. Your family can stay with you. We ask that you limit the number of family members as the rooms cannot accommodate a large crowd. Your family can keep your clothing or it can be placed in a locker for safe keeping. A nurse will check your vital signs and go over important medical history.

You will see me prior to the surgery and have an opportunity to ask any additional questions that you may have.

A nurse or an anesthesiologist will start an IV. In some cases, a sedative will be given to relax you prior to going to the operating room. Once you have been taken to the operating room, your family is to go to the waiting room until your surgery is completed.

In the operating room:

Once in the operating room, you will be transferred to the operating table. In the room, there are key personnel including the circulating nurse, a scrub tech, anesthesiologist, and myself. Several monitors will be connected to watch your vital signs during the procedure. Once all that is complete, you will be given anesthesia to go to sleep. The average duration of this procedure is 20-30 minutes. Please allow extra time for transportation and getting the patient off to sleep.

After surgery:

Once your surgery has been completed, you will be taken to the recovery room and I will let your family know your surgery is done. Once again, you will spend approximately one hour in the recovery room, sometimes less, sometimes a bit more, depending on how you metabolize the medications given to you.

When you are awake, the nurse will help you get dressed and transfer you to the discharge area. At that time, your family will be called to come and sit with you. You may be given some juice, soda, or crackers or assisted to the rest room if necessary. Additional discharge instructions may be given to you as well as any prescription.
Once you go home:

Expect to be a bit groggy for a while. I ask that you do not drive a car or operate any machinery that day. You will have no other restrictions as far as your diet or activity. Sometimes, the anesthesia can make you a bit nauseous. Don’t be alarmed, that usually resolves by the next day. It may be helpful to apply an ice-pack to the area to help alleviate any discomfort or swelling. If you don’t have an ice-pack, you can make one by taking a wash cloth and wetting it. Fold it and put it in the freezer for a while. Once cold and “crunchy” place it in plastic wrap or a zip lock bag. Instant ice-pack. You can even prepare this the day before so it’s ready when you get home.

You may take Tylenol, Advil, Aleve, or any other over the counter pain medication as before f you like. The prescription is for a narcotic and is stronger just in case you need it. If you do not have pain, you do not need to take any prescription medication.

As before, the day after surgery please remove your bandage and you may shower. Under the bandage you will again see steri-strips. Leave those alone, they will start to peel off over the following 7-10 days and you can eventually peel them off without harming the incision.

It won’t always be necessary for me to check the incision after surgery as you by now will be able to tell if something doesn’t look right. We will send you a reminder in the mail when it’s time for another check-up. Of course, if you are unsure of anything at any time, please call the office.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in your care. It means a great deal to me and my staff that you would trust us with such an important matter.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office or staff.

Dr. Arlene Ricardo  
Patricia- Nurse  
LaMonica- Billing/Insurance  
Betty- Front desk/Reception