

Fitting an implantable chamber

(La pose d'une chambre implantable)

Administering chemotherapy into small veins such as those of the arm can be difficult. They are fragile and repeated injections soon become painful. **This is why fitting an implantable chamber is often proposed before chemotherapy.** It is also known as a Port-a-Cath® or PAC.

This device comprises a small housing (the implantable chamber) and a catheter (fine, flexible tube). It is placed entirely under the skin, during a short surgical procedure under local anaesthetic. If surgery is planned before chemotherapy (to remove the tumour), the surgeon may take the opportunity to install the device during this procedure, under general anaesthetic.

The housing is placed in the chest and connected to the catheter which is placed in a vein, usually a large vein at the base of the neck.

At each chemotherapy perfusion, the drugs are injected directly into the implantable chamber, through the skin.

The device remains in place throughout the duration of treatment and **allows normal physical activity**, swimming, travel, etc.

The catheter and implantable chamber are generally well supported. You may feel discomfort when travelling by car, caused by the safety belt. **In the event of pain, inflammation or abnormal seepage with respect to the implantable chamber, you must inform your doctor.**

When the device is no longer necessary, it is removed during a short surgical procedure.

Venous catheter with implantable chamber

