



Ommaya Reservoir

What is an ommaya reservoir?

Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) surrounds the brain and spinal cord. Sometimes, medications need to be given into the CSF because intravenous (IV) medications will not reach that area. Medications can be given into the CSF when an ommaya reservoir is inserted. The ommaya reservoir, or port, is a dome like device that is placed surgically under the scalp.



What is it used for?

It may be used to:

- give medications directly into the CSF.
- measure the pressure of the CSF.
- take samples of CSF to be tested.

How is it inserted?

- Your head will be clipped in the area where the reservoir will be placed.
- A surgeon inserts it when you are asleep (under general anesthetic).
- You will have stitches over the area and a dressing covering the port for a short time.
- You will be given medications for any discomfort.

Other information

- After the incision heals, there is usually a small bump on your head, where the port is located.
- Only a nurse or doctor trained in the use of the ommaya reservoir can use the device.

Special instructions

- Keep the incision dry until the sutures (stitches), or staples are removed.
- Avoid any injury to the area.

Report any of these problems to your doctor:

- signs of an infection
 - redness, tenderness, or drainage from the site.
 - site becomes warm to touch.
 - fever more than 38°C.
- headache with or without vomiting.
- neck stiffness.

Looking for more health information?

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazine articles and online health information.

For a list of public libraries in Nova Scotia go to [HTTP://publiclibraries.ns.ca](http://publiclibraries.ns.ca)

Capital Health promotes a smoke-free and scent-free environment.

Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

Capital Health, Nova Scotia

www.cdha.nshealth.ca

Prepared by: Hematology Patient Education Working Group ©, QEII, Halifax, NS

Reviewed by: Coleen Colville, RN, BN, CNE Hematology

Approved by: LA Fernandez, Md, FRCP(C), FACP for the Hematology Cancer Site Team

Diagram by: Kathy Prime

Designed and Printed by: QEII Audio Visual and Printing Departments

WH85-0265 Revised June 2007

The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years.