

A button for easy ERT access

A 'Button' is an implanted venous port, often called a Port-a-Cath, port, or totally implanted venous access device (TIVAD).

It can be particularly useful for a child who needs regular intravenous treatment such as enzyme replacement therapy (ERT), especially when repeated cannulation of the hands or arms is difficult.

It isn't actually a button. It is a small medical device placed underneath the skin, usually on the upper chest.

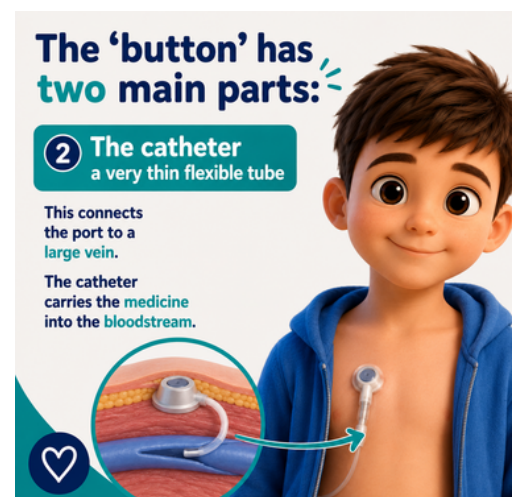
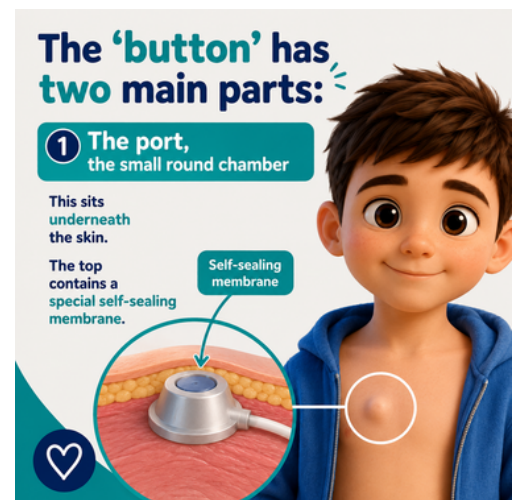
It has two main parts:

1. The port – the small round chamber This sits underneath the skin. The top contains a special self-sealing membrane.
2. The catheter – a very thin flexible tube. This connects the port to a large vein. The catheter carries the medicine into the bloodstream.

Think of it like this:

1. ERT bag
2. special needle
3. port
4. catheter
5. large vein
6. bloodstream

The child doesn't normally have a tube sticking out of their body when the port isn't being used. The whole device is underneath the skin. You may be able to see or feel a small raised area where the port sits.



How the button is accessed



Children receiving regular ERT can need IV access very frequently. For some children, repeatedly finding a suitable vein can become difficult or stressful.

A port can provide the medical team with reliable long-term venous access, reducing the need to insert a new peripheral cannula each time.

It can also be used for other purposes, such as taking blood samples, depending on the type of port and the child's treatment plan.