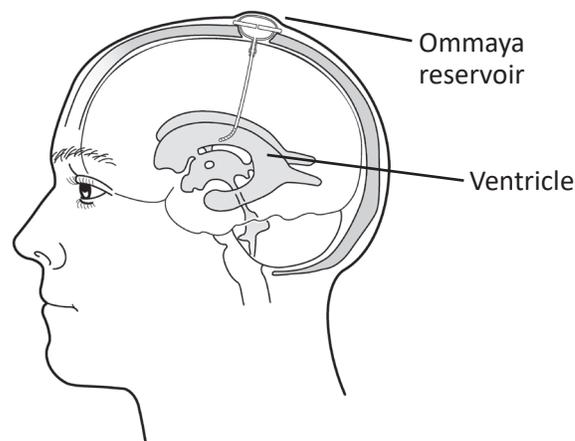


Ommaya Reservoir

An Ommaya reservoir is a small plastic dome-shaped device (port) that is placed under the skin on your scalp. It is connected to a small tube. The tube leads to a fluid-filled chamber in your brain. This chamber is called a ventricle and is where cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is made. CSF is a liquid that flows around your brain and spinal cord. CSF cushions and nourishes your brain.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your neurosurgeon or nurse.



Purpose of an Ommaya reservoir

Most often, the Ommaya reservoir is used in cancer treatment. It can be used to:

- Place medication directly into the CSF of your brain and spinal cord
- Take a CSF sample to look for abnormal cells
- Measure the pressure in your brain
- Remove excess CSF from the ventricle

What to expect during the placement procedure

An Ommaya reservoir is inserted in the operating room while you are asleep. Before surgery, your hair over the spot where the reservoir will be placed may be shaved. The neurosurgeon will make an incision in the skin on your scalp. A small opening will be made in your skull. A small tube will be placed inside the ventricle of your brain. The port will be connected to this tube. The reservoir will be positioned underneath your scalp. The incision will be closed with sutures (stitches) or staples.

The procedure will take 1 to 2 hours. After surgery, a computed tomography (CT) scan will be done to make sure the Ommaya reservoir is in the correct position.

After the procedure

Most patients have only minor pain. Talk with your neurosurgeon or nurse about what pain medication you can take. You may resume your normal activities as you are able. The stitches will be taken out after 7 to 14 days.

Follow these instructions until the stitches are taken out and the incision is healed:

- **Keep your scalp incision dry.**
- Follow your neurosurgeon's instructions for washing your hair.
- Avoid cigarettes, cigars, secondhand smoke and e-cigarettes. The nicotine in these products can delay healing.
- Avoid any injury to the area.

Treatment using the Ommaya reservoir

First, your neurosurgeon or nurse will feel for the reservoir. The skin around the Ommaya reservoir will be cleaned. A small needle will be inserted into the reservoir.

If needed, a small amount of CSF will be taken out with a syringe and sent to the lab for testing. If your neurosurgeon has prescribed medication, it will then be injected into the reservoir slowly over a few minutes. After the needle is removed, the area may be covered with a small bandage.

The entire process will take 5 to 10 minutes. Your neurosurgeon or nurse may ask you to remain in the clinic for a few minutes after the reservoir has been accessed for the first time. You may then sit, stand and do all normal activities, including washing your hair.

When to call your neurosurgeon or nurse

Call your neurosurgeon or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:

- Soreness and redness at the reservoir site
- Drainage from the reservoir site
- A temperature more than 100.5 degrees F
- A stiff neck
- A headache with or without vomiting
- Blurred vision