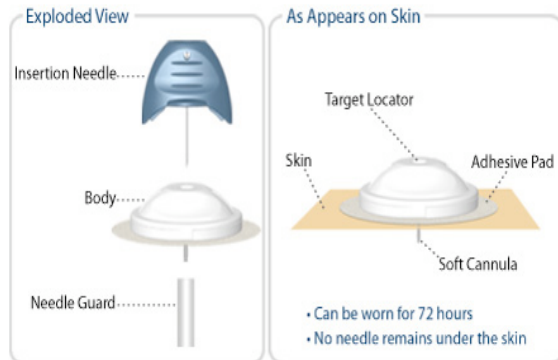


The I-Port

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The I-Port is a port that acts as a passageway into a diabetic's body. This port is used to deliver insulin to the body and specifically to limit the actual number of needle pricks a diabetic will experience. The I-Port is about one and half inches in diameter and one third of an inch tall.

There are three main parts of the I-Port: the insertion needle, the body, and the needle guard. Other features of the I-Port include the target locator, adhesive pad, and cannula.



The I-Port user applies it by first removing the adhesive backing and the needle guard. Then the user pinches the skin in the abdominal area and presses the needle into the body. While holding the body of the I-Port, the user pulls out the insertion needle and discards it. The cannula serves as a passageway for insulin for 72 hours (It can be used for up to 75 injections, however, it is more likely 72 hours will be reached first).

The insulin is injected using the same tool a diabetic would normally use to inject the insulin. The needle of the tool is inserted into the target locator and then dispensed. The insulin reaches the subcutaneous tissue via the cannula.

The benefits of the I-Port are numerous. Only one prick to insert the I-Port is needed in three days. On average, a diabetic will need to prick themselves twelve times in 72 hours without the I-Port. The I-Port is also very discreet and is easily hidden underneath a shirt. Patients that were surveyed about the I-Port said that they were less likely to skip meals to avoid an injection or skip an injection all together. This benefits the diabetic's health overall because they receive the insulin and nutrients they need to survive.

There are minimal risks to the I-Port. There is a small risk of infection with the I-Port because it is creating a passageway into the body. Also if the I-Port is applied incorrectly it could lead to poor insulin delivery.

A diabetic, Catherine "KK" Patton, who used to skip her injections because of the pain and soreness each injection would bring, invented the I-Port. Her company, Patton Medical Devices, has the patent to the I-Port. The Food and Drug Administration cleared the I-Port in September of 2005. The cost of the I-Port varies with each insurance provider.

Sources:

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