

Ommaya Reservoir

What is an Ommaya reservoir?

The Ommaya reservoir is a small dome-shaped port (about the size of a quarter) that is placed underneath the scalp. It is attached to a catheter (thin tube) that is inserted into a ventricle (open space) in the brain. The ventricle contains cerebral spinal fluid.

What is the purpose of an Ommaya reservoir?

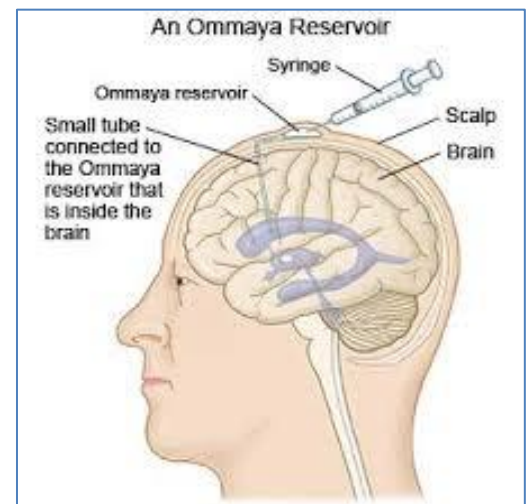
The purpose of the Ommaya reservoir is to give medicine such as chemotherapy and antibiotics and/or to remove cerebral spinal fluid for testing.

How is an Ommaya reservoir inserted?

It is put into place in the operating room, under general anesthesia. An area of the head is shaved and a small opening is made. The reservoir is stitched in place. Your healthcare team will advise you as to whether stitches need to be removed.

What do you do after your Ommaya reservoir is inserted?

You will feel a bump on your scalp where the port has been placed. Your surgeon will give you instructions regarding when you can wash your hair. Dry the wound thoroughly.



This catheter will not affect normal activity. Avoid injury to the area. Wigs, scarves, or hats may be worn.

What should you expect during treatment through the Ommaya reservoir?

A small needle is inserted into the Ommaya reservoir to give medicine and/or to remove cerebral spinal fluid. This can be done in an inpatient or outpatient setting. After treatment, you will be observed for side effects such as nausea, vomiting, headache, or dizziness for a short period of time.

When should you call the healthcare team?

Notify your healthcare team if you experience any of the following:

- Soreness, redness, or leaking of fluid at site
- Temperature of 100.4° or higher
- Neck stiffness or pain
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.