Introduction: Implantable ports (Polysite) are routinely used as a long term central venous access for pediatrics in hematology-oncology ward who needs multiple chemotherapy treatments. These children are highly predisposed to infections due to immune compromised status and poor general condition. Fever with unknown origin is not rare among these patients and the implanted port is a usual suspect in all cases. We had to extract the ports in such patients with FUO while the ports are critically useful among these cases that obtaining a venous access is very difficult for them. Moreover, implanting and extraction of ports are done in operation room and under general anesthesia with their own risks and psychological and physical side effects.

In this study we evaluated the infection rate and type among extracted ports in hematology – oncology patients.

Materials and Methods: All cases who operated to extract the implantable port for any reason were included in our study. The study was conducted in Dr Sheikh Children’s hospital. We opened the port reservoir after port extraction and used the inner materials (blood clots mostly) to obtain a culture. We also assessed the simultaneous blood culture that was mostly done as the routine protocol of sepsis work up. Plates were incubated aerobically at 37-degree C for 48 hours while colonies were counted at 24 and 48 hours. We evaluated the infection rate of extracted ports and accordace of the results of port and blood culture.

Results: Rate of implantable port reservoir among patients was 45%. 23% in elective asymptomatic cases and 67% in febrile or septic patients. Blood- port culture accordance rate was 63%.

Conclusion: Although the port culture may be positive among most febrile patients, but it is not the source of infection necessarily.