*An insider's glance at a day in surgery*

# Through the Eyes of a SameDay Surgery Patient

*By Lin Danes*


*Jeanne Auman, accompanied by husband, Danny Auman, arrives at Summa's SameDay Surgery Pavilion for her procedure.*

"Because it was a very aggressive tumor, I had already had a lumpectomy followed by a mastectomy," says Jeanne Auman, 45, a billing clerk for Goodyear, and a wife and mother of three teenagers.

"This has all been very sudden and very abrupt, in part, due to a lack of family history with the disease," Auman explains. "Also, I had been getting mammograms every year, and nothing had come up." Despite a negative mammogram in February 1998, Auman's war with cancer began when she detected a lump in her right breast through a self-exam around Thanksgiving 1998.

"Now, I will be going through chemotherapy and radiation," Auman says. "The cancer was heavily involved in my lymph nodes, so they're hoping this course of treatment will kill any loose cancerous cells floating in my body."


*Jill Buynak, R.N., answered all of the Auman's questions once they arrived at Summa's Sameday Surgery Center.*
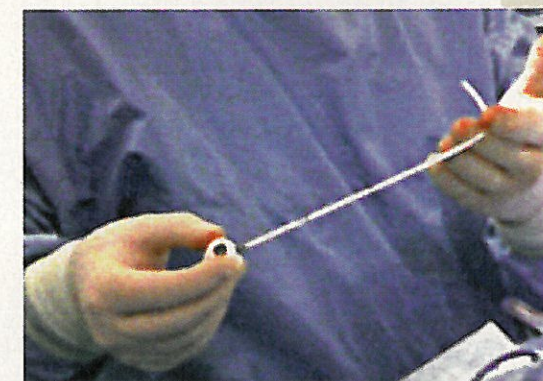
## The Next Step

An April 6 procedure, called an insertion of a subcutaneous port and catheter (see sidebar), was performed on an outpatient basis by Gary Williams, M.D., who had also pre-formed her lumpectomy. However, placing a catheter and reservoir beneath her skin was not a treatment, rather it was a preliminary step her oncologist Joseph Koenig, M.D., opted for to make the imminent chemotherapy treatments as bearable as possible.

"It's amazing what procedures can be done on an outpatient basis," Auman says. "My lumpectomy was done in Summa's SameDay Surgery earlier, and I was home within 10 hours. With this procedure, I will be home even sooner." Because she had recently undergone preadmission testing for her other procedures, Auman's first stop upon arrival was in a preoperative (pre-op) room.

## Pre-Op— 8:15 to 9:45 a.m.

"I've been to almost all of Jeanne's appointments with her," says Danny Auman during a brief wait in the SameDay Surgery lounge as his wife of 22 years changed into her hospital gown. They arrived at 8:15 a.m., parked the car in the lot adjacent to Summa's SameDay Surgery Pavilion and registered by 8:20 a.m.


*Gary Williams, M.D., holds the port and catheter, that was placed near the collarbone of Jeanne Auman.*

"All I've been able to figure out that I can do for her is to be here for her," he says. Shortly thereafter, he joined Jeanne in pre-op room 20 as she geared up for the procedure which would help in her ensuing battle against breast cancer.

"After Jeanne changed her clothes, I completed her nurse assessment," says Jill Buynak, R.N., in SameDay Surgery. "Her vital signs were taken including blood pressure, pulse, temperature and respirations, and an IV was started.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENNIS SUTTON

## Subcutaneous Port and Catheter

### What is a subcutaneous port and catheter?

"Basically, a port is a piece of plastic with a reservoir and a silicone entry point. Attached to it is a catheter, which accesses a vein under the clavicle," says Gary Williams, M.D., a general surgeon who practices at Summa Health System. "This procedure, which provides doctors access to a patient's venous system, is performed primarily for patients needing chemotherapy."

### What is its Purpose?

"The insertion of a port is needed for chemotherapy," says Jeanne Auman, a Summa Health System patient now well-versed in the medical technology that could save her life. "It's an easier way for chemotherapy drugs to be dispersed in the system at a rapid rate. It also eliminates the need for frequent jabbings with a needle and a need for an IV. It goes under the skin near my heart on the left side of the body."

### How common is the insertion of a subcutaneous port and catheter?

"The procedure isn't rare, but it also is not as common as other outpatient surgeries, such as hernias and gallbladders, that we do," says Williams. "We may do 50 to 100 of these port procedures annually. Only a certain percentage of patients need chemotherapy and only a percentage of them will require a port."