

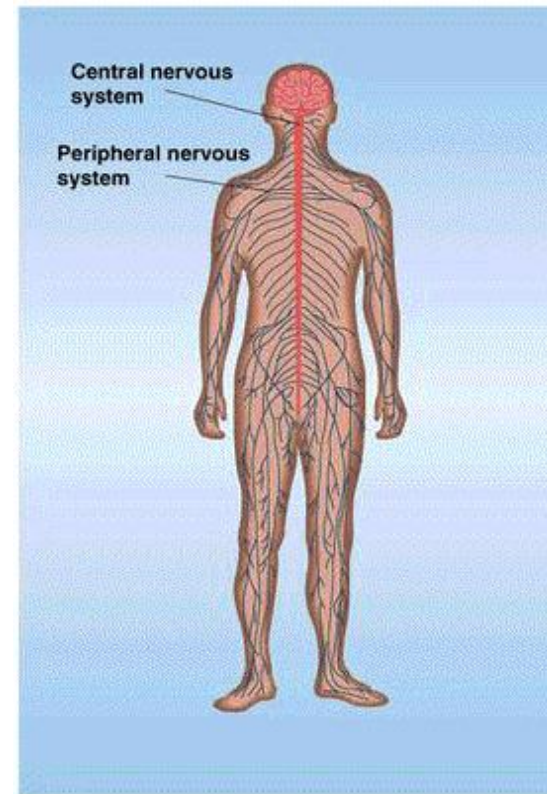


Hydrocephalus and its Treatment

By Adult Health Team LDS, East Lancs PCT

What is hydrocephalus?

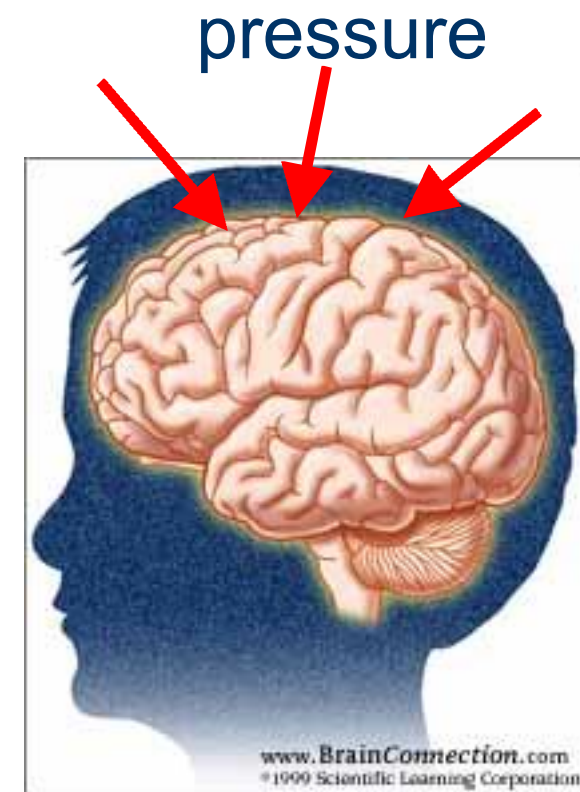
- The body produces a clear liquid called cerebro-spinal fluid CSF. Normally this is absorbed by the brain and passes into the blood.



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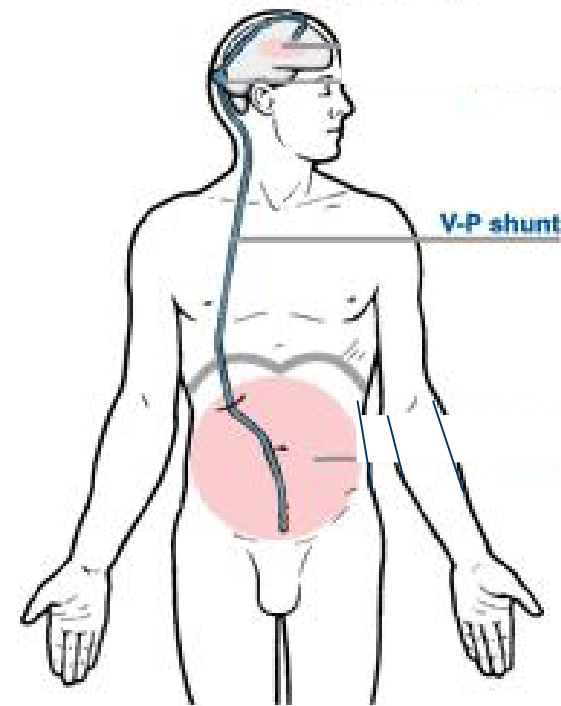
What is hydrocephalus?

- with people who have hydrocephalus the brain does not absorb the clear fluid and this causes pressure on the brain.



What can be done?

- To relieve this pressure a shunt can be fitted.
- The shunt takes the fluid from the brain into another part of the body using a tube.



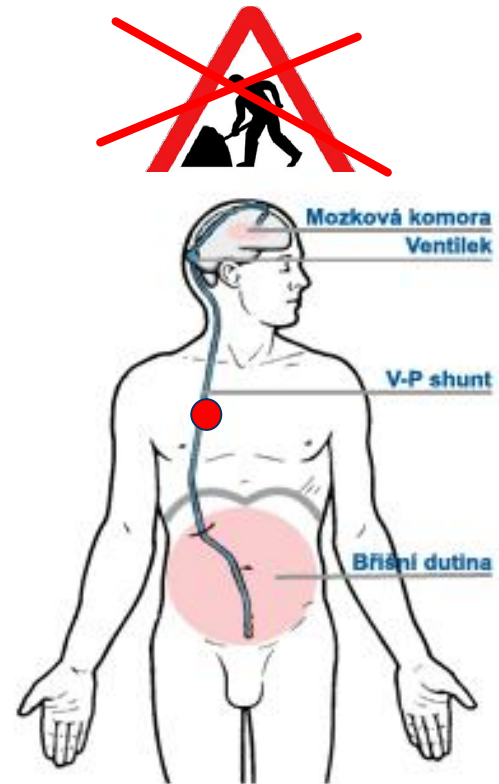
How long will the shunt last?

- The shunts can last for a long time and may never need changing.
- You should have your shunt checked every 5 years by a neurosurgeon (Doctor)



How long will the shunt last?

- Sometimes the Shunt can stop working properly.
- This is usually due to a blockage, if this happens the shunt (or part of it) will need changing.
- This happens for around half the people with shunts within 10 years of its fitting.



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How can I tell if my shunt isn't working properly? What may happen if it blocks?

- You may become:-

- Dizzy



Drowsy

- Have headaches



What else may happen?

- You may
- Start being sick (vomiting)



Become Sensitive to light



- Have seizures + possibly become
- unconscious



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What can you do?

- If the shunt stops working you will need to go to the hospital to get it checked



What checks may they do?

- They may have to do a CT Scan
- Or an MRI scan



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What treatment may be done?

- You may need to have an operation



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Going to hospital

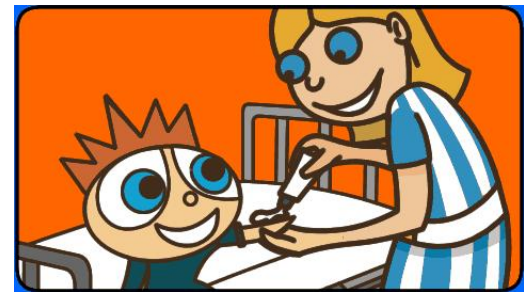
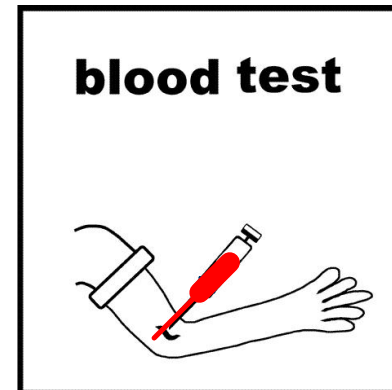
- Normally you will go onto the ward the day before the operation.
- The nurses and doctors will talk to you



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When you are on the ward

- They may want to take some blood from your arm to test it.
- If you are scared of needles they can put some cream on the area so that you will not be able to feel the needle.



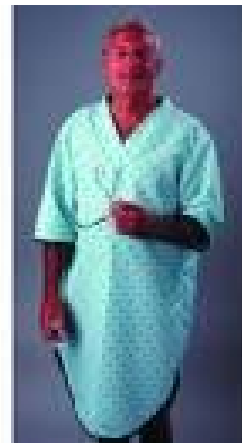
The day of the operation

- You will not be able to have anything to eat or drink on the day of the operation.



Before the operation

- You will have a bath or shower
- and will put on an operating gown.



Before the operation

- Before the operation you will have part of your head shaved.



Before the operation

- When it is time for your operation you will be put onto a special bed and wheeled to the operating room.



Going to sleep for the operation

- You will have a small needle (venflon/canular) put into the back of your hand.
- They can put the special cream on again so that you don't feel the needle.



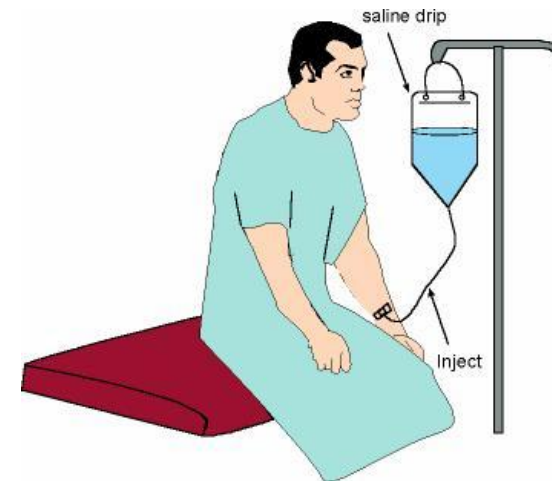
Going to sleep for the operation

- Putting this needle in the back of your hand is **very important**.
- It needs to be done in order to put you to sleep for the operation so that you don't feel anything,
- and also so you can be given fluids (water) through a drip afterwards.



After the operation

- When you wake you will have a drip connected to your hand.
- This is to ensure your body gets enough water into it.



After the operation

- The drip will be taken out by the nurse when you start eating and drinking normally.



How long will I be in hospital for?

- Normally you will stay in hospital for about **3-4 days**. This will depend on how you feel.

