



## POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHUNTS

Follow up with an appointment with the neurosurgeon in 2–3 weeks, unless otherwise stated by your doctor. Please call the office the day you are discharged from the hospital for scheduling convenience.

### Incision Care

- Keep incisions clean and dry.
- Avoid touching incisions with hands. Wash hands prior to any contact with incisions or use Purell
- Your child’s cleanliness is important in preventing infection. Provide daily baths and frequent hand washing.
- Please resume shampooing hair with Johnson’s baby shampoo on the second day after surgery and continue daily shampooing hair thereafter

### Pain Control

- Give Tylenol to help with discomfort or headaches. May give Motrin for children over 6 months old.
- If the pain becomes severe and Tylenol does not help, please call the pediatrician or neurosurgeons office.

### Fever

- Fever about 101.5 degrees, please call pediatrician or neurosurgeons office.

### Activity/Position

- Keep the head of the bed slightly elevated to promote draining of the shunt.
- Your child may become tired easily and need more rest.
- Limit activity for the next 2–3 weeks.
- No bike riding, playgrounds, swimming for 2–4 weeks.
- May return to school/day care upon neurosurgeons approval. Your child may need extra rest periods for the first 2–3 weeks upon return to school.

### Infections and Concerns

- Watch for any signs of wound infection, shunt infection or shunt malfunction for the next 6–8 months.
  - Worsening headaches uncontrolled by the Tylenol or Motrin
  - Increased agitation or sleepiness
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Redness, swelling or drainage from incision
  - Fever greater than 101.5 that is unassociated with other symptoms of illness
  - New onset or increase seizure activity
  - Full or bulging or tense fontanel (infant’s soft spot on the top of the head)
  - Loss of coordination
  - Change in behavior or concentration

Please call the neurosurgeon for any additional concerns (321) 841 3050.

Please notify your pediatrician or family doctor of the surgery.