

## OUTLOOK

Shunting is successful in reducing pressure in the brain in most people. The average lifespan of an infant's shunt is 2 years. Adults and children over the age of 2 may not need a shunt replacement for 8 or more years. Shunts systems require frequent monitoring and follow-up.

## COMPLICATIONS

that may occur with shunt systems include:

- mechanical failure
- obstructions
- infections

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT HOME

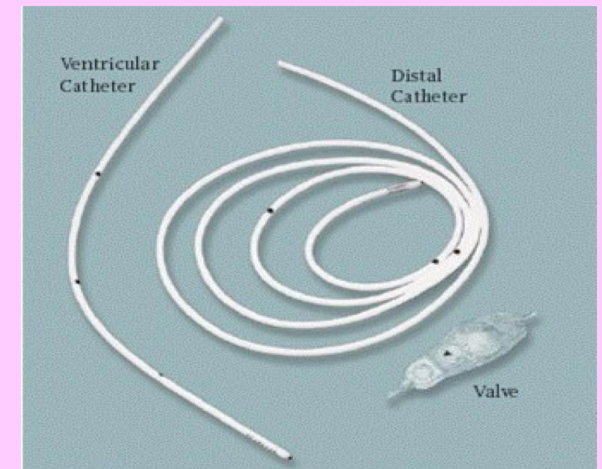
- ▶ Any stitches or staples that you can see will be taken out in about 7 to 14 days.
- ▶ All parts of the shunt are underneath the skin. At first, the area at the top of the shunt may be raised up underneath the skin. As the swelling goes away and your child's hair grows back.

## SELF CARE

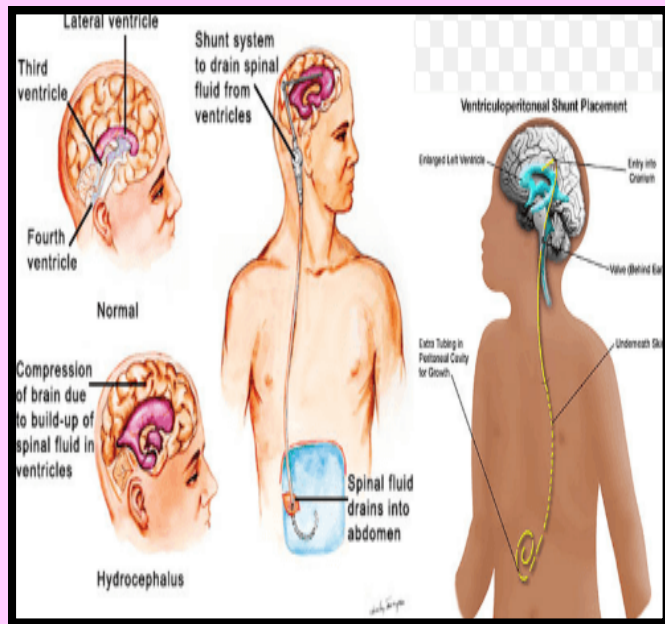
- ♥DO NOT shower or shampoo your child's head until the stitches and staples have been taken out.
- ♥DO NOT push on the part of the shunt that you can feel or see underneath your child's skin behind the ear.
- ♥Your child should be able to eat normal foods after going home.
- ♥Older children can do most regular activities. Talk with your provider about contact sports.
- ♥Most of the time, your child may sleep in any position. But, check this with your provider as each child is different.



## VENTRICULOPERITONEAL SHUNT (VP SHUNT)



OPERATION THEATRE  
NEURO STAFF  
UMMC



## DEFINITION

A ventriculoperitoneal shunt (VP) shunt is a device that is used to relieve the pressure from the brain caused by the fluid accumulation.

The VP shunting is a surgical procedure that is primarily used for treating hydrocephalus, a condition which occurs when excess cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) gets accumulated in the brain's ventricles.

## WHO NEEDS A VP SHUNT

Hydrocephalus is more likely to occur in babies and older adults.

Excess fluid can build up around the brain for a number of reasons, including: overproduction of CSF

Poor absorption of CSF by the blood vessels

blockages preventing fluid from flowing throughout the brain

## RISKS OF VP SHUNTING

There are rare risks specific to VP shunting that can be serious and potentially life-threatening if left untreated, including:

- infection in the shunt or brain
- blood clots
- bleeding in the brain
- damage to brain tissue
- swelling of the brain

## VP SHUNT PROCEDURE

► Patient is under general anesthesia.

► A surgeon will make a tiny incision behind the ear and will also drill a small hole in the skull. They will then thread one catheter into the brain through this opening. The other catheter goes behind your ear and is subcutaneous, meaning it resides under the skin.

► This tube travels down to your chest and abdomen, allowing excess CSF to drain into the abdominal cavity, where your body absorbs it. Your surgeon will attach a tiny pump to both catheters and place it under the skin behind your ear. The pump will automatically activate to remove fluid when the pressure in the skull increases. It may even be possible to program the pump, also called a valve, to activate when the fluid increases to a certain volume.