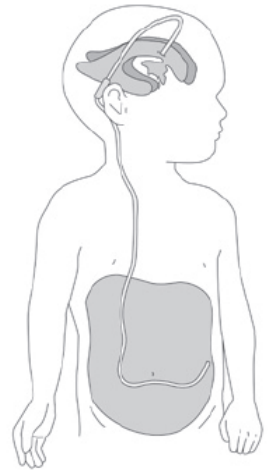


Paediatric Ventricular Shunt Alert

Attention Doctor

Important information about children with a ventricular shunt (cerebrospinal fluid shunt)

Ventricular shunts in children may block or become infected.



Signs that shunt may not be working
(may have one or more):

Signs for baby

- > irritable, unsettled
- > more sleepy than usual
- > high pitched cry
- > vomiting
- > sunsetting eyes (eyes unable to look up)
- > poor feeding
- > head getting bigger
- > fontanelle full and firm when sitting up and quiet
- > seizures (fits)
- > fever
- > swelling/redness along shunt tract

Signs for child

- > irritable, confused disorientated or just not usual self
- > more sleepy than usual
- > headache
- > vomiting
- > double or blurred vision
- > photophobia (eyes sensitive to light)
- > unsteady on feet
- > difficulty doing routine tasks
- > seizures (fits)
- > fever
- > swelling/redness along shunt tract

If symptoms exist immediate referral required.

Ring the Women's and Children's Hospital on 8161 7000 and ask for the Neurosurgery Registrar.

For more information

Department of Neurosurgery
Women's and Children's Hospital
72 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006
Telephone: (08) 8161 7230
www.wch.sa.gov.au