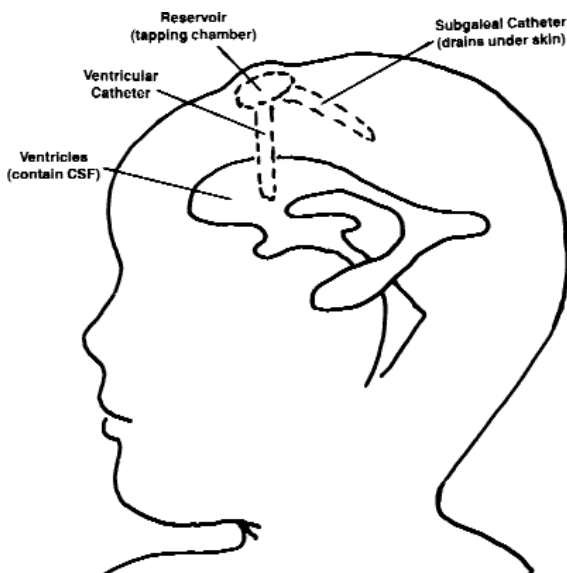


Subgaleal Shunt Information for Parents

1600 7th Ave. S. • Birmingham, AL • 35233 • (205) 939-9100 • CHECK Center Health Information

Your child has been diagnosed with hydrocephalus (water on the brain). The most common cause of hydrocephalus in premature babies is bleeding in the brain (intraventricular hemorrhage). The blood from an intraventricular hemorrhage commonly blocks the absorption of the fluid that flows in and around the brain, causing it to build up within the brain. If hydrocephalus is present, then there is pressure on the brain.

A subgaleal shunt is a temporary way to divert the fluid to another place where it can be absorbed. During the operation, a small tube is placed into the enlarged chambers in the brain and connected to another tube under the skin. This allows the fluid as well as the blood clot to be drained to the subgaleal space (the space between the scalp and the bone). This shunt also makes it easier for the doctor to sample brain fluid at any time if needed. After the surgery, your child should have swelling under the skin in the area where the shunt drains.



A subgaleal shunt is considered temporary treatment and will only last about 3-4 weeks. Once the shunt quits working, you doctor will advise you as to whether or not a permanent shunt is needed.

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