



CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH SYSTEM®

# INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE MONITORING

1600 7th Ave. S. ♦ Birmingham, AL ♦ 35233 ♦ 205.939.9100 ♦ CHECK Center Health Information

## WHAT IS INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE?

Intracranial pressure (ICP) is pressure within the skull and brain. Many patients, who have changes in pressure, have suffered a head or brain injury, or have a history of brain tumor or have hydrocephalus (excessive fluid in the brain). Increased intracranial pressure that is not treated can cause damage to the brain.

## HOW IS ICP MONITORED?

There are two ways that the pressure can be monitored.

1. A tube may be placed into the fluid space, the ventricles, inside the brain. This method allows the medical staff access to drain/sample spinal fluid, if needed.
2. A probe may be placed within the brain to measure the pressure.

## HOSPITALIZATION:

The patient will be put to sleep for the surgery. The procedure is done in the operating room. The patient is then admitted to our special care unit for to be monitored. The patient will be in the hospital 2-3 days. Once the doctor has all the information that is needed, the device is removed and the patient is discharged home. The device that is used for monitoring will be removed at the bedside. The results of the tests will be discussed with you by the neurosurgeon.



*Illustration showing the insertion of an ICP monitoring device.*

Children's Health System CHECK Center  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Nadine Bradley, RN  
Birmingham, Alabama

Amy Brooks, CRNP

Gigi Pate, CRNP

Children are the center of our lives.®

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