



*Emergency Guide
for children and adults,
operated on
for hydrocephalus*

Tête en l'air

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Referral Hospital :

Referral Neurosurgeon :

Unit Phone Number (24h/d) :
00 33

Date	Type / Adjustments :

Then the doctor will decide what to do :

- stay home and monitor,
- consult a GP,
- go to the nearest neurosurgery unit which can take you,
- go to the nearest emergency services,
- wait for an ambulance or emergency team.

In any case, make sure you have as much information as possible with you :

- show your VP shunt alert card or this guide with the latest changes,
- provide your post-operative and hospital records and corresponding medical imaging on CD,
- give the contact details of the hospital and neurosurgeon treating you, they may need to contact them.

Information marked in **red** must be included when calling.

If you are travelling abroad, always plan your trip before leaving :

- Have your VP shunt alert card and this guide, with the latest changes on it, with you
- Note the references of the nearest neurosurgical unit to your location

You have had surgery for **hydrocephalus**, either by placing a **Ventricular Peritoneal (VP) shunt valve for draining the cerebrospinal fluid**, or with the realization of a **ventriculostomy**. If you don't have a VP shunt alert card, get one as soon as possible from your neurosurgeon, as well as your post-operative and hospital records and medical imaging on CD.

Caution : Some of these symptoms may be masked by medication

- **headaches**
- **nausea, vomiting**
- blurred or **double vision**
- extreme tiredness
- drowsiness
- lethargy and poor concentration
- **bulging fontanelle** (baby)
- **seizures**

You or your child have one or more of the following symptoms:

Step one : Correctly identify symptoms

What you should do if you suspect VP shunt valve or ventriculostomy malfunctions :

If you experience some or any of the above symptoms, immediately call :

- the nearest neurosurgery unit (**ask to talk to the neurosurgeon on-call 24 hours/day**),
- Emergency services in case of extreme urgency (**sleepiness, seizures**).

When you call, specify :

- that you have a **VP shunt valve for draining the cerebrospinal fluid or a ventriculostomy**. (If you say only "valve", emergency services could think that it is a heart valve),
- the symptoms identified ,
- if you are taking medication.

Step two : immediately call the nearest neurosurgery unit or the emergency services.