

Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

A ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt is surgically placed in the ventricles of the brain to divert excess cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) away from the brain. The CSF is then absorbed into the bloodstream, filtered through the kidneys, and eventually excreted through urine. As an implanted medical device, the VP shunt requires monitoring for device malfunction, failure, and infection. Manufacturer guidelines should be followed for safety restrictions or precautions specific to the device.

WARNING SIGNS

- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sleepiness or lethargy
- Changes in vision
- Increased irritability
- Swelling along the shunt tract
- Fever or chills
- Neck stiffness or tenderness
- Pain
- Personality changes
- Difficulty with balance or coordination
- Seizure
- Head injury or trauma (e.g., hit with basketball, fall on playground)

ESSENTIAL STEPS

1. Do not leave the student unattended.
2. Report head injury or trauma to the school nurse/health room immediately.
3. Contact the school nurse/health room.
4. Notify parent/guardian.
5. If the school nurse or parent/guardian is unavailable, call 911.