



Temple Street

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Neurosurgical Glossary

Listed below are some words you may hear when your child is treated by the Neurosurgical Team. It is important that you understand what everything that is happening to your child, please ask questions about anything you do not understand.

Angiogram	A test which shows us the blood supply to a part of your body.
Biopsy	When the doctor takes a very small piece of your skin, muscle or organ to look at it under a microscope to help decide what treatment would be best for you.
Burrhole	A hole made in the skull with a surgical drill to allow insertion of a catheter or scope for the removal or drainage of blood or pus.
Cerebellum	An area of your brain; it controls your balance and movement.
Cerebral Cortex	An area of your brain that controls how you deal with information and language.
Cerebrospinal Fluid	Fluid produced in the brain which provides nutrition and protection of the brain and spinal cord by acting as a cushion.
Contact Sports	Any sport or activity where a child is at risk of banging their head.
Craniectomy	Removal of a section of the skull; the bone is not replaced.
Craniotomy	An opening made in the skull during brain surgery.
CT Scan	A detailed Xray which shows up your body in detail. You will be asked to lie still on a bed as you pass through a donut shaped machine.
Cyst	A growth made up of abnormal cells may contain fluid or pus.
EEG	Electroencephalogram; a printout of the electrical activity of your brain. You have to wear a strange hat.
EMG	Electromyography; a test to measure electrical activity of your muscle.

Encephocele	When a part of the brain bulges through a gap in the skull.
Endoscopic Third the Ventriculostomy (ETV)	Used as an alternative to a VP Shunt to drain / to divert fluid to normal fluid spaces in the brain.
Epilepsy	Unusual activity in a brain which can cause seizures.
External Ventricular Drain (EVD)	Drain inserted into the ventricles in the brain and drained to the outside to drain off excess fluid.
Fontanel	A soft spot of the top of a baby's head.
Intracranial Pressure Monitoring (ICP)	A fine wire sensor into the brain to measure the pressure within the skull.
IVH	Intra ventricular haemorrhage a bleed in the brain - blood drains in to a ventricle.
Meninges	Covering of the brain made up of 3 layers: Pia, Arachnoid and Dura.
Meningocele	A bulge of cerebrospinal fluid through a gap in the spinal cord.
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging; a particular type of scan in the x-ray department.
Myelomeningocele	Where the spinal cord bulges through a gap in the spine.
Neurologist	A expert doctor on how the nervous system works and how to treat problems you may have moving around.
Neurosurgeon	A expert doctor who operates on a person's brain.
Oncologist	A doctor who is an expert in treating cancer.
Paediatrician	A doctor who is an expert in treating children.
Ventricles	Areas in the brain where cerebrospinal fluid is produced.
Ventriculoperitoneal (VP) Shunt	Thin tubing with a valve that drains fluid from the fluid the brain into the tummy area.

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