

Understanding Chronic Adult Hydrocephalus



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 **SOPHYSA**
At the heart of the **brain**

Dear reader

You or someone close to you has hydrocephalus.

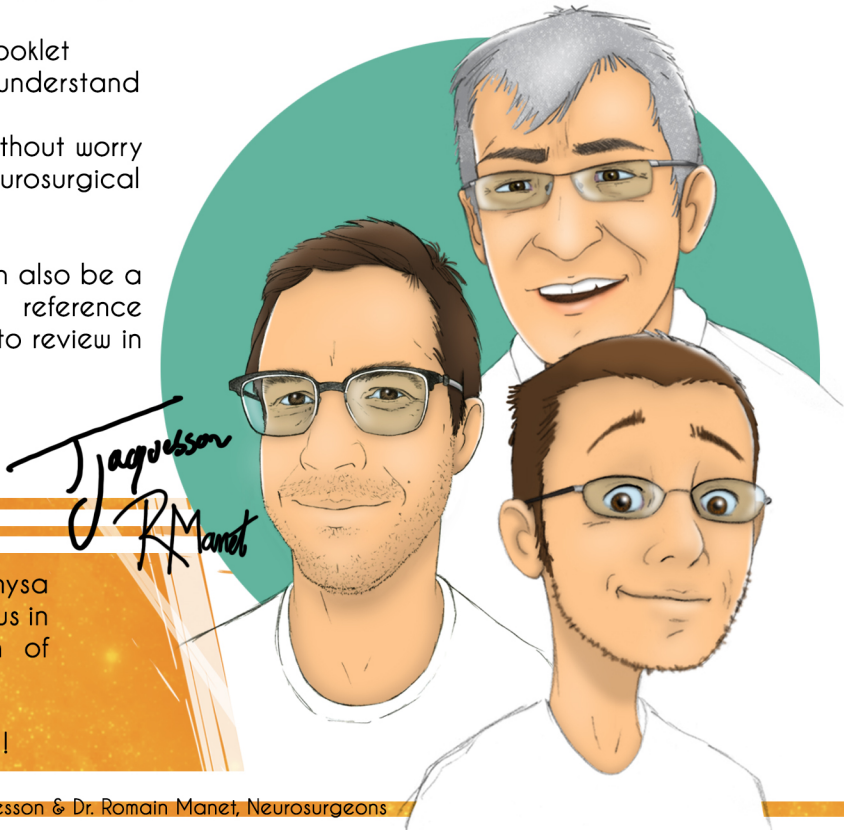
Beyond its unusual name, hydrocephalus is a difficult disease to understand. Why does it occur? How can it be treated?

In our neurosurgery department, we frequently care for patients with hydrocephalus, providing answers to questions about the disease, its origin, its surgical treatment and risks, and the post-operative follow up.

Through this cartoon adventure of Mr. B, we wanted to gather valuable information for patients and their loved ones. We tried to provide easy to understand details about the brain, the physiology of the cerebrospinal fluid in and around the brain, and the treatment options, with their respective advantages and disadvantages. Finally, we explain the warning signs, and the necessary precautions.

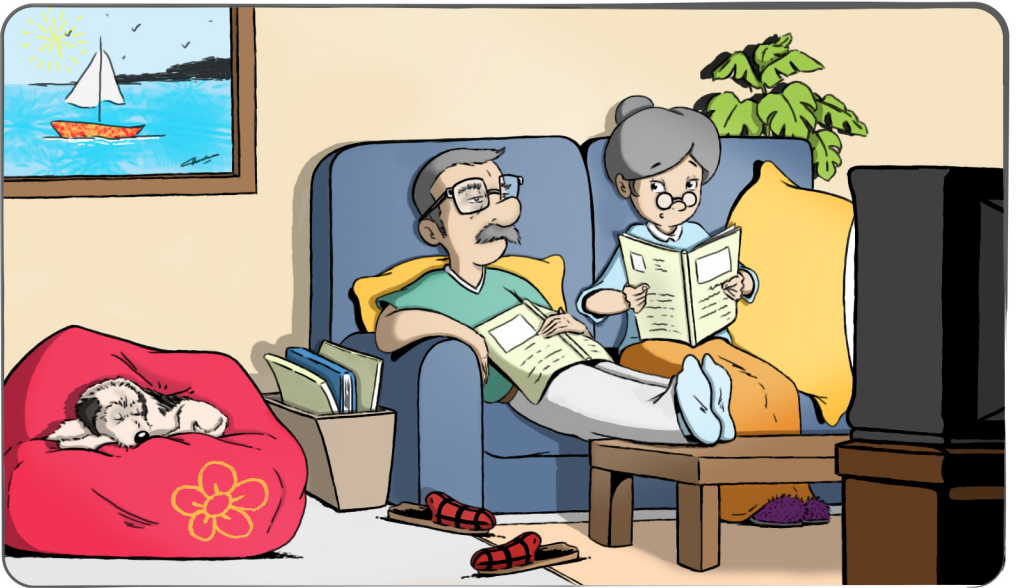
We hope this booklet will help you understand hydrocephalus, and prepare without worry for your neurosurgical intervention

This booklet can also be a hydrocephalus reference source, for you to review in the future.



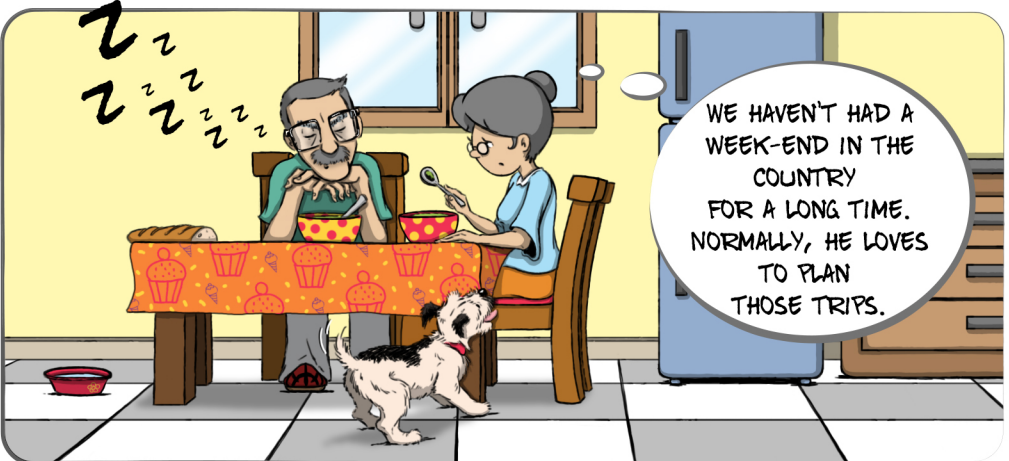
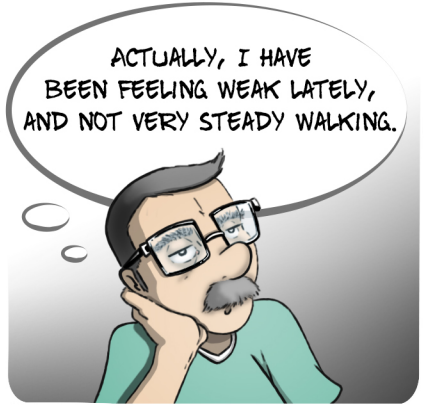
We thank Sophysa for supporting us in the realization of this project

Good reading !

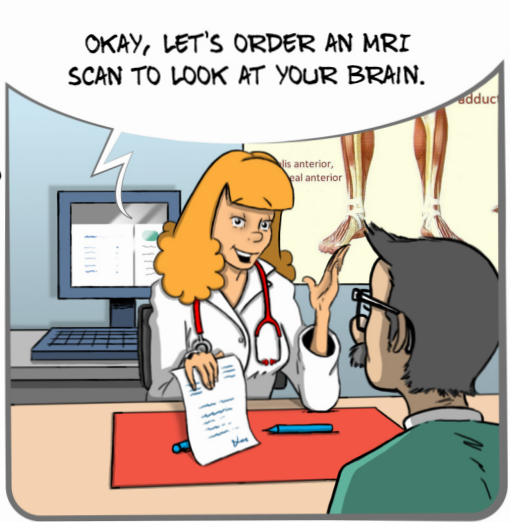
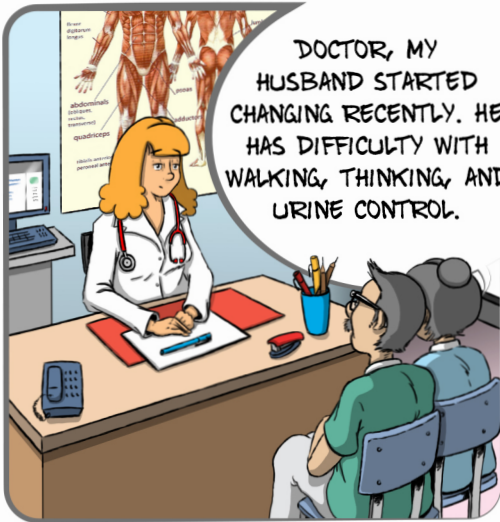


DARLING, YOU DON'T EXERCISE OR EVEN DO CROSSWORDS ANYMORE WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

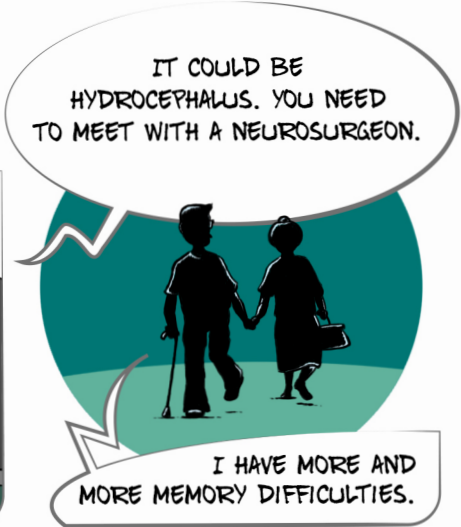
ACTUALLY, I HAVE BEEN FEELING WEAK LATELY, AND NOT VERY STEADY WALKING.



WE HAVEN'T HAD A WEEK-END IN THE COUNTRY FOR A LONG TIME. NORMALLY, HE LOVES TO PLAN THOSE TRIPS.



THIS IS THE MRI OF YOUR BRAIN. I DO NOT SEE ANY SIGNS OF STROKE, BUT YOUR VENTRICLES (THE CAVITIES WHICH CONTAIN THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID) SEEM TO BE ENLARGED.





WHEN CEREBROSPINAL FLUID (CSF) ACCUMULATES WITHIN THE BRAIN, THIS IS HYDROCEPHALUS.

I WILL EXPLAIN.

CSF IS PRODUCED WITHIN THE VENTRICLES, BY VASCULAR STRUCTURES KNOWN AS CHOROID PLEXUS. THEN THE CSF CIRCULATES ...

THROUGH LATERAL VENTRICLES, THE 3RD VENTRICLE, AND THE 4TH VENTRICLE, ...

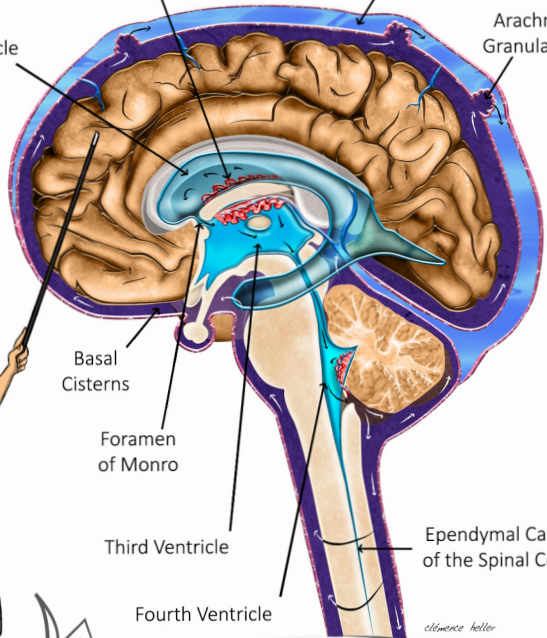
AND THEN IT DIFFUSES AROUND THE BRAIN AND THE SPINAL CORD. FINALLY, IT IS REABSORBED INTO THE VEINOUS CIRCULATION. CSF PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR THE BRAIN AND ALSO PLAYS A ROLE IN BRAIN METABOLISM.

Lateral Ventricle

Choroid Plexus

Vein (Superior Longitudinal Sinus)

Arachnoid Granulations



Basal Cisterns

Foramen of Monro

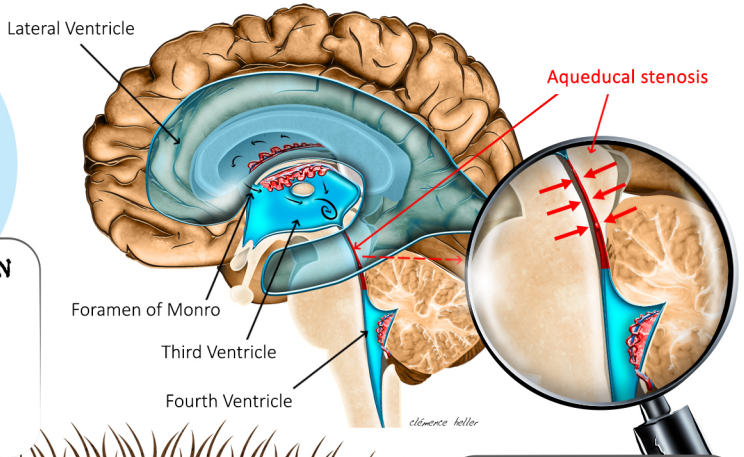
Third Ventricle

Fourth Ventricle

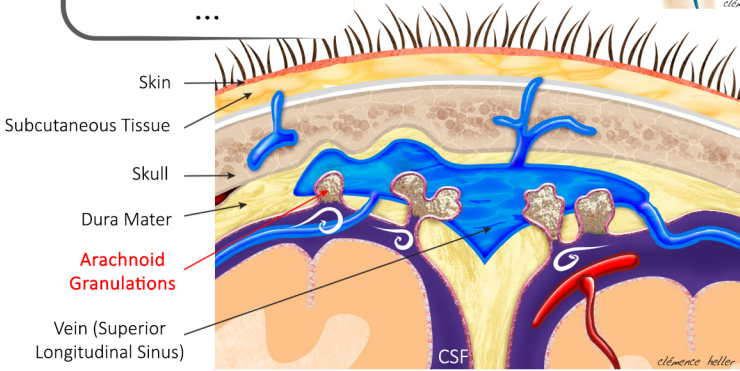
Ependymal Canal of the Spinal Cord

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CONFIRMING THE DIAGNOSIS OF HYDROCEPHALUS REQUIRES A LUMBAR PUNCTURE, TO MEASURE PRESSURE AND WITHDRAW CSF.



HYDROCEPHALUS CAN RESULT FROM AN OBSTRUCTION OF NORMAL CSF CIRCULATION, ...



...OR FROM IMPAIRMENT OF REABSORPTION WITHIN THE VEINOUS SYSTEM. IN BOTH CASES, THIS PROBLEM LEADS TO VENTRICULAR DILATATION AND BRAIN COMPRESSION.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HYDROCEPHALUS?



INPH TYPICALLY PRESENTS WITH A CLINICAL TRIAD: WALKING AND BALANCE DIFFICULTIES, URINARY EMERGENCIES AND LEAKS, AND COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTIONS, SUCH AS MEMORY LOSS AND FATIGUE.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE !

I'VE FALLEN SEVERAL TIMES RECENTLY, FOR NO REASON. I ALWAYS FEEL WEAK. AND, I'VE BEEN HAVING URINARY PROBLEMS.



EXACTLY,

YOU SLEEP CONSTANTLY. AND, WE NEVER HIKE ANYMORE.



SIMILAR CLINICAL SIGNS MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER CONDITIONS, POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH HYDROCEPHALUS

ABNORMAL MOVEMENTS, PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND SIMILAR DISORDERS

DEGENERATIVE SKELETAL DISEASES:

- NARROW LUMBAR CANAL
- CERVICAL MYELOPATHY
- OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE HIP AND KNEE

Frozen appearance

Tremors

Magnetic walk «freezing»

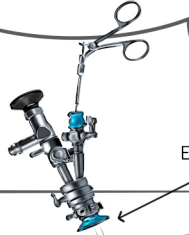


ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

WHAT CAN WE DO DOCTOR?

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SURGICAL SOLUTIONS TO TREAT HYDROCEPHALUS:

IF YOUR HYDROCEPHALUS IS DUE TO AN OBSTRUCTION OF CSF CIRCULATION, WE CAN PERFORM AN ENDOSCOPIC THIRD VENTRICULOSTOMY.

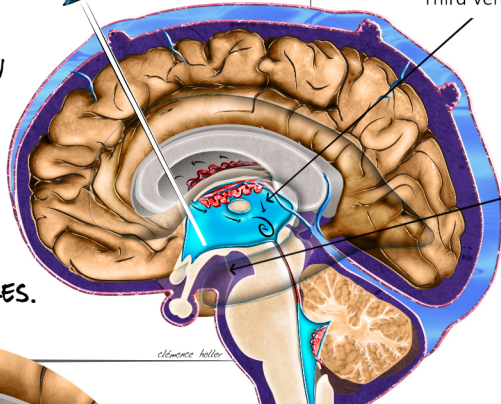


Endoscope

Third Ventricle

Basal Cisterns

IT INVOLVES SHUNTING THE CSF CIRCULATION, BY CREATING A NEW COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE VENTRICLES AND EXTERNAL CSF PATHWAYS. IT IS PERFORMED THROUGH A SMALL SKIN INCISION AT THE TOP OF THE HEAD, WHICH ALLOWS THE INTRODUCTION OF A CAMERA THROUGH THE VENTRICLES.



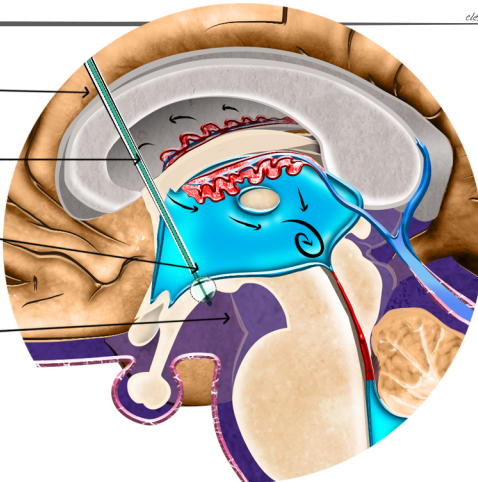
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Endoscope

Probe

Balloon

Basal Cisterns



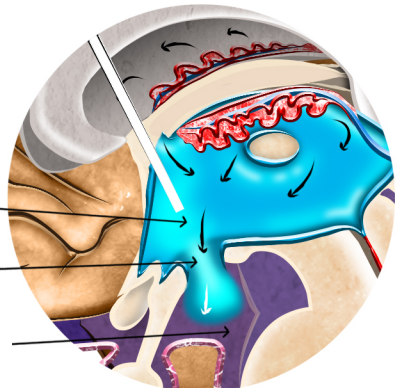
WITH A SMALL PROBE, AND A MICRO-BALLOON, THE FLOOR OF THE THIRD VENTRICLE IS OPENED, TO ALLOW THE CSF TO FLOW,

...OUT OF THE VENTRICLES, TOWARDS EXTERNAL CSF SPACES. THE PROCEDURE TAKES 30 MINUTES, AND RISKS ARE RELATIVELY LOW, SUCH AS INSUFFICIENT EFFECT, HEMATOMA, OR INFECTION.

Reestablished Circulation

Surgical Opening

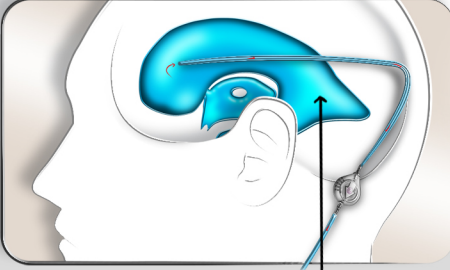
Basal Cisterns



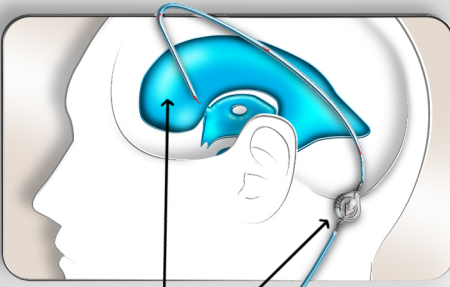
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOUR HYDROCEPHALUS IS DUE TO AN IMPAIRMENT OF CSF REABSORPTION, THEN WE PERFORM A VENTRICULOPERITONEAL SHUNT. A SMALL CATHETER IS INSERTED WITHIN ONE OF THE LATERAL VENTRICLES, AND IT IS CONNECTED TO A VALVE, THAT CONTROLS THE FLOW OF CSF.



Typical Ventricular Punctures:



Ventricular Atrium (Occipital Horn of Lateral Ventricle)

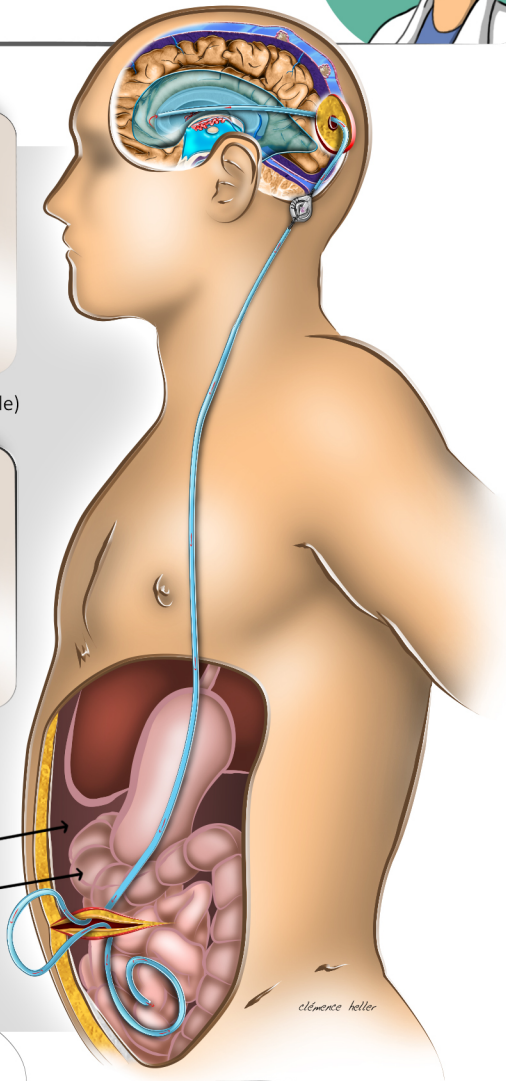


Valve

Frontal Horn of Lateral Ventricle

Abdominal Cavity

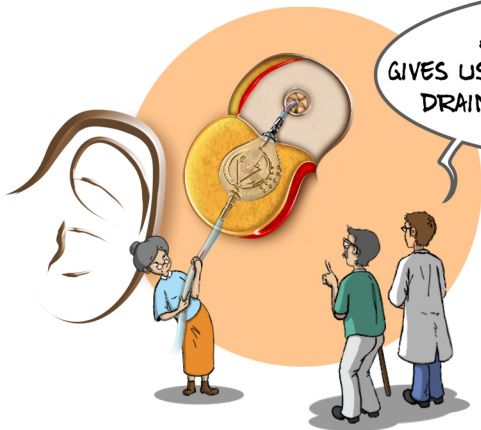
Digestive Tract



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ANOTHER LONGER CATHETER IS THEN GUIDED UNDER THE SKIN TO THE ABDOMINAL CAVITY, WHERE ITS TIP IS INSERTED.

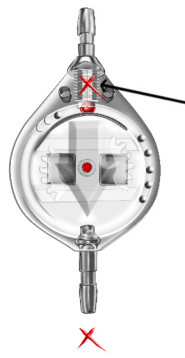
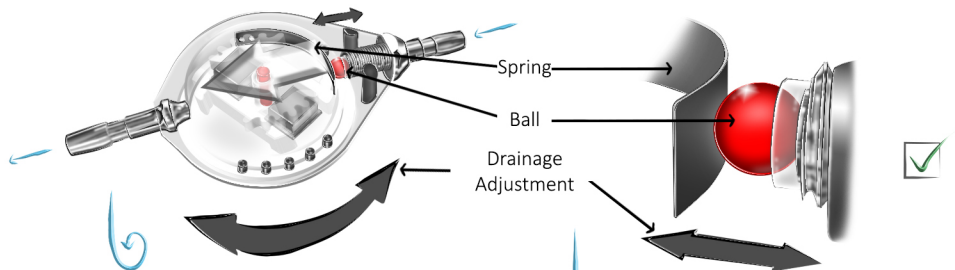
FOR THIS PROCEDURE, WE MAKE ONE OR TWO INCISIONS ON THE HEAD, AND ONE NEAR THE UMBILICUS. THIS PROCEDURE TAKES 45 MINUTES, AND THE RISKS ARE ALSO RELATIVELY MINOR.



AN ADJUSTABLE VALVE GIVES US THE ABILITY TO ADJUST THE DRAINAGE RATE NON-INVASIVELY.

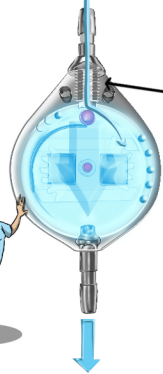
THE PRIMARY RISKS AFTER THE IMPLANTATION OF THESE MEDICAL DEVICES ARE INFECTION AND MECHANICAL FAILURE - EITHER OF WHICH COULD REQUIRE SURGERY.

MECHANICAL FAILURE CAN RESULT IN TOO LITTLE OR TOO MUCH DRAINAGE.



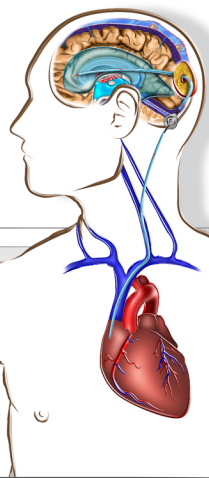
Blokage by Debris

Insufficient Drainage



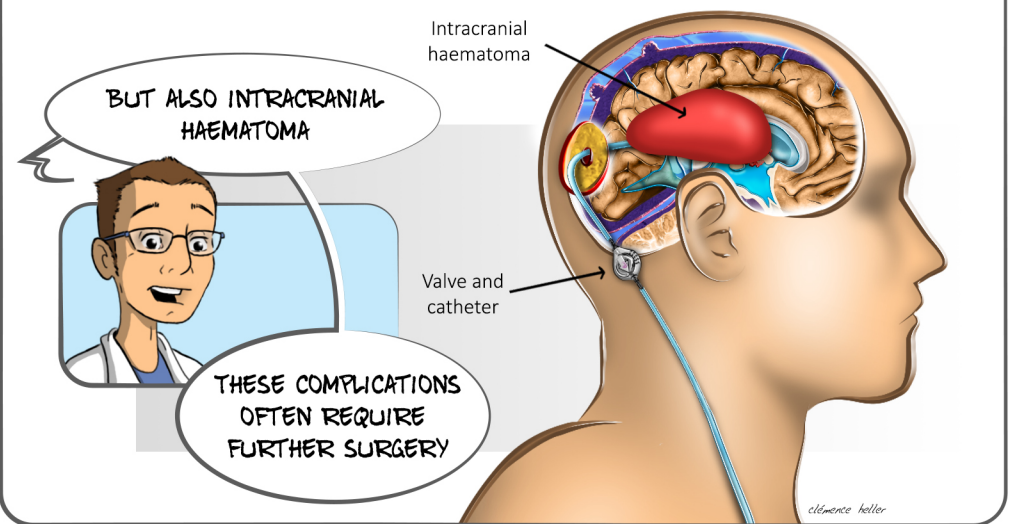
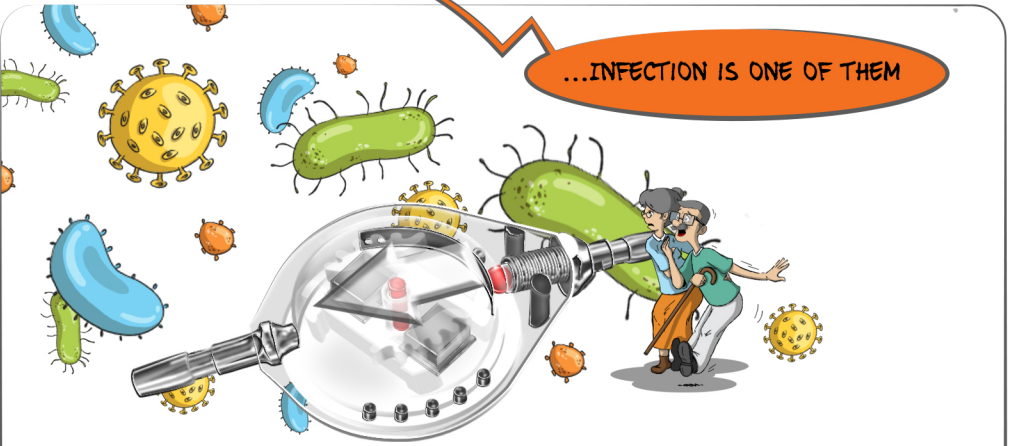
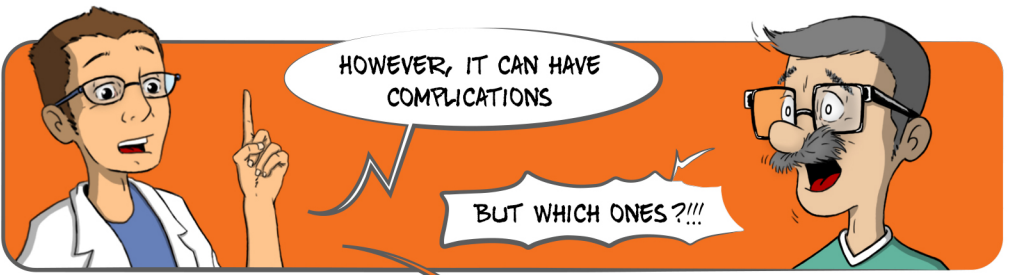
Abnormal Opening by Debris

Over Drainage



clemente heller

IF THE ABDOMINAL CAVITY IS NOT ACCESSIBLE (BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS ABDOMINAL SURGERY, OR OBESITY), THE DISTAL CATHETER CAN BE INTRODUCED INTO A NECK VEIN, AND POSITIONED NEAR THE HEART. THIS IS CALLED A VENTRICULO-ATRIAL SHUNT.

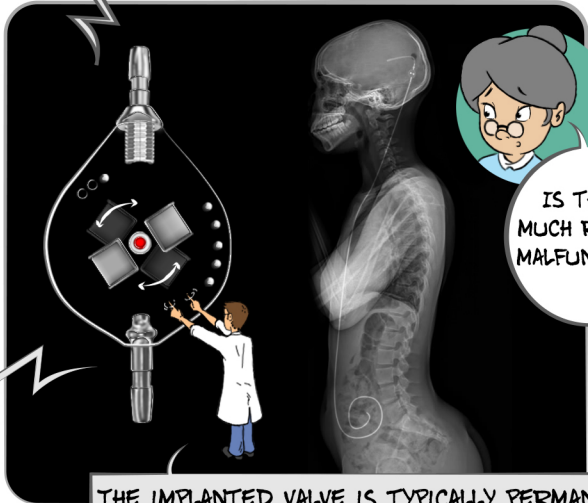


IS THERE ANY SPECIAL POST-OP FOLLOW-UP?



YES. IN THE EARLY POST-OPERATIVE PERIOD, WE WILL PERFORM A CT SCAN OR MRI, AND A SIMPLE X-RAY, TO CHECK THE POSITION OF THE SHUNT.

OLDER ADJUSTABLE VALVES SOMETIMES HAD PROBLEMS WITH MAGNETIC FIELDS, BUT THE NEWEST ADJUSTABLE VALVES ARE MRI STABLE. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP THEIR SETTINGS, EVEN WHEN EXPOSED TO STRONG MAGNETS, LIKE AN MRI, OR WEAK MAGNETS, LIKE AIRPORT SECURITY GATES.



IS THERE MUCH RISK OF MALFUNCTION?

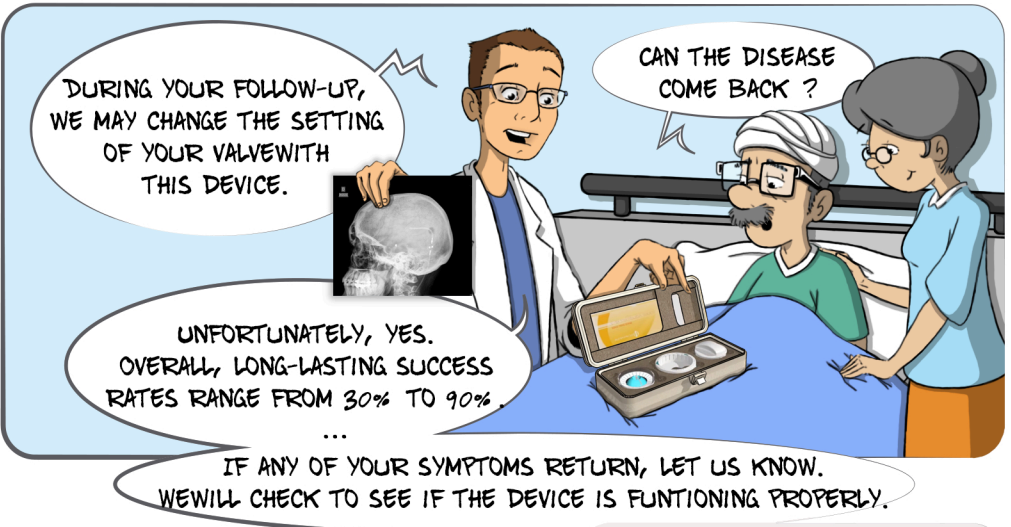
THE IMPLANTED VALVE IS TYPICALLY PERMANENT.

MR B JUST HAD SURGERY

THE SURGERY WENT VERY WELL. YOU WILL BE DISCHARGED IN 2 DAYS.



IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE CARING FOR YOUR WOUNDS DAILY, WITH IODINE SCRUBS, UNTIL COMPLETE HEALING, WHICH USUALLY TAKES 7 TO 10 DAYS. THE SURGICAL SUTURES WILL BE REMOVED AT DAY 10. BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW ALL OF THE POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: NO BATHING FOR 1 MONTH AFTER SURGERY AND PROTECT THE SURGICAL SCAR FROM THE SUN FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR.



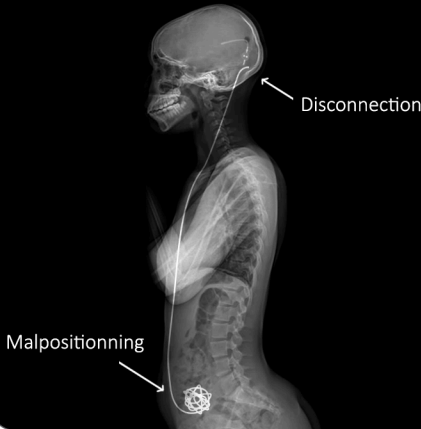
A compass is placed above the center of the valve



The valve is adjusted with a magnet

AND, IF WE EVER DECIDE TO ADJUST THE VALVE'S SETTING, IT IS VERY SIMPLE, AND TOTALLY NON-INVASIVE. IT ONLY REQUIRES A BRIEF CLINIC VISIT, AND WE CAN ADJUST YOUR VALVE SETTING TO MATCH YOUR CLINICAL NEEDS.

WITH A SIMPLE X-RAY SERIES WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THE ABSENCE OF COMPLICATIONS, SUCH AS ANY DISCONNECTIONS, NORMAL POSITIONING OF THE CATHETERS



IN THE CASE OF THIRD VENTRICULOSTOMY, WE WILL CONFIRM THE PROPER FLOW OF CSF THROUGH THE VENTRICLE OPENING, USING SPECIFIC MRI SEQUENCES.



3 MONTHS LATER...



SOPHYSA

At the heart of the **brain**

