



ENDOSCOPIC RELEASE OF CRANIAL SUTURES POST-OPERATIVE PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

Dr. Albert Woo/Dr. Petra Klinge

Before Surgery:

- We will refer you to North East Orthotics for a helmet before surgery. They will call you to set up an appointment for a laser scan. Their phone # is **401-437-8016**. The address is 765 Allens Ave, Providence, R. I. Out of state patients will be go to the Hangar Clinic.
- The helmet will be ready for fitting and pick up 1-2 days before the surgery. Bring the helmet with you on the day of surgery.
- The night before surgery, please wash your baby's hair with the shampoo you usually use.

Feeding

- For the first 1-2 days after surgery, your child will be given fluids through an IV. After surgery, we do not have children eat right away. In a few hours your child may begin to drink liquids.
- Sometimes children may need a blood transfusion in the 24-48 hours after surgery. You should not be alarmed if this is needed.
- It may take a day or two for your child to want their usual food.
- Your child must be drinking well to go home. Children do not have to be eating their usual amounts, but they must be drinking enough.
- At home, keep track of your child's drinking and wet diapers. If you notice a decrease in either, your child may be dehydrated. If you are worried, call your pediatrician or your surgeon. Sometimes children need to come back to the hospital for hydration.

Swelling

- Your child's head and face will be swollen after surgery. This may get worse for two to three days. Then it starts to get better. Their eyes should be open at the end of this time.
- Most children will be able to have the helmet on the day after surgery. Some children need 2-3 days for the swelling to go down before the helmet fits.

Pain Control

- Your doctor will order pain medicine for your child.
- Usually a day or two after surgery, children do not seem to have much pain. You may then stop the prescription pain medication and give Tylenol.
- If your child is not drinking well or is fussy, he or she could have pain.
- Keep track of your child's bm. He or she should go back to usual bowel habits. If your child does not have a regular bowel movement, he or she may be constipated.
- Prune juice or over the counter laxatives may help. Call your child's doctor or nurse if you think your child is constipated.

Fevers and Infection

- Most children have a fever in the days after surgery. This is normal after a big operation. The body is healing, and usually not an infection.
- Infections after this surgery are not common.
- If an infection happens, it is usually not right after surgery, but 7 to 14 days later.
- Signs of infection include:
 - The eyes swelling shut a second time. Swelling right after surgery is normal. Swelling two weeks after surgery is abnormal.
 - Spreading swelling and redness around the incision.
 - Milky or foul-smelling drainage from the incision.
 - Fevers above 101.4. Early post-op fevers are very normal, but should be gone within about 7 days of surgery.
- If you are worried, please call our office. If it is after hours, or on the weekend, please call 444-4000 and ask to speak to the on-call Plastic Surgery Resident.

Wound Care

- Your child's scalp incision has been closed with dissolving stitches. They are covered with a layer of surgical glue called Dermabond. Nothing needs to be done with the incisions. The glue will flake off over time and the stitches will dissolve.
- You may wash your child's hair when you go home, as well as over the glue and incisions. Soap and water is safe. No special care is needed.
- **Do not apply Vaseline or antibiotic ointment to the incision as the glue will fall off.**
 - **The helmet is worn 23 hours a day. The staff at N. E. Orthotics will give you tips on how to do this. They may have you start with the helmet on for an hour. Then go up on the time in half hour amounts over the next few days. Your baby will adjust to the helmet as you stay on the schedule.**

Activity & Sleep

- Your child may take a few weeks to return to his or her usual routine and sleep.
- Follow all your routine safety measures: car seats, seat belts in high chairs.
- Your surgeon will tell you when your child may return to daycare, generally not for two to three weeks.
- We understand that an occasional bump to the head may be unavoidable. Your child's head is not in danger from a minor bump.

Emotional Recovery

- After surgery, your child may be tired or fussy, especially if their eyes are swollen. Healing for each child is different.
- In time, your child will return to his or her usual activity.

Follow-up

- Please call N. E. Orthotics for a follow up appointment for helmet therapy. The phone # is 401-437-8016. You will be seen about every two weeks at first. Then monthly appointments after that.
- Your child will need to return for a follow-up appointment with Dr. Woo 3 weeks after surgery. Call our office at 401-444-2299 to make this appointment.

When to Call Your Child's Doctor

- Your child has a fever over 101.5°F degrees
- Your child's eyes swell closed a second time
- There is more swelling and redness
- If your child can't be awakened or aroused
- If you are worried, and would like to talk about any changes in in your child's activity or behavior. Please call our office. If it is after hours or on the weekend please call 444-4000 and ask to speak to the on-call Plastic Surgery Resident