

# External Ventricular Drain (EVD)

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## What is an External Ventricular Drain (EVD)?

An EVD is a temporary device that drains excess cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) from the ventricles in the brain.

Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) is an important fluid. It helps cushion and protect the brain as well as bring important nutrients and take away waste. CSF is found in the ventricles of the brain, and around the brain and spinal cord.

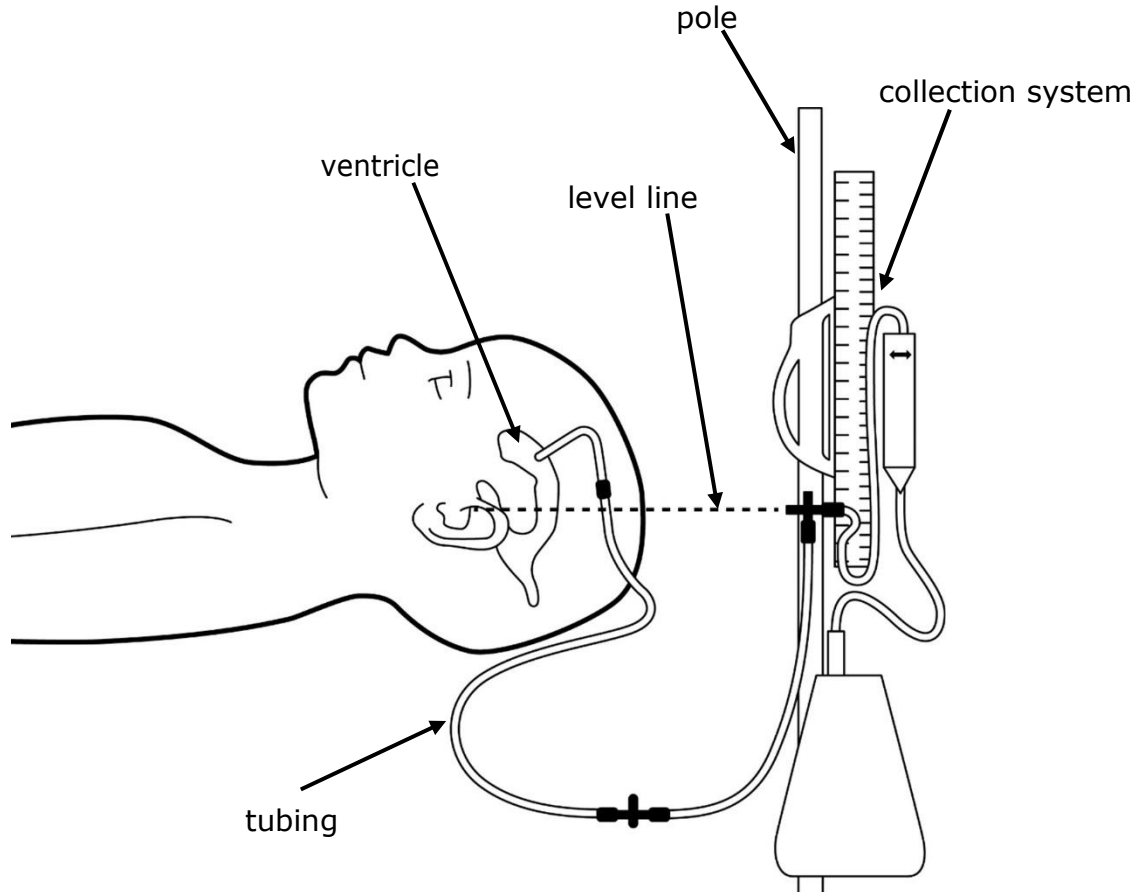
We insert an EVD to reduce pressure on the brain due to the buildup of CSF.

## How does it work?

Gravity will help drain extra fluid from your child's ventricles. It is important to keep your child's ear level to a mark on the pole. That means it is important to contact the nurse any time your child wants to move for example, to sit up, cuddle, stand, walk, go to bathroom.

## What does it look like?

The drain goes into a ventricle in your child's brain. You will see tubing coming from your child's head. The tubing is stitched in place and may have a dressing over it. The tubing will attach to a collection system that will be on a pole.



## What will your nurse do?

The nurse will monitor your child frequently and will need to wake them at times to complete their care.

Using a light, your nurse will make sure your child's head is at the correct level and move the collection bag if needed. Your nurse will measure how much fluid comes out of the drain. Your nurse will change the rate it drains based on your child's needs. There will be times your nurse will close the drain such as if your child is crying for more than 5 minutes, or needs to walk, sit up or get up to the bathroom so that your child doesn't drain too much or too little CSF.

## How can you help your child?

If you need to move your child, call the nurse for help. This is very important because the drain will need to be closed and placed at the correct level after each position change. If your child is crying for more than 5 minutes let your nurse know because the drain may need to be closed.

Let your nurse know if your child becomes:

- drowsy
- more irritable
- has headaches
- starts to vomit
- has leaking of fluid from the tubing or head
- crying more than 5 minutes
- has pain
- if the tubing disconnects

Please do not pull on the tube or tubing. Please **do not clamp** the tubing.

It is important to help your child to feel comforted and to play. Please ask our Child Life Specialist for special activities and ideas on how to support your child during this time.

## Can I wash my child's hair?

No, you cannot wash your child's hair while they have an EVD.

## How long will my child have an EVD?

An EVD is a temporary measure. Every child is unique.

Please ask your neurosurgery team how long they expect your child to have the EVD.