

INCREASED INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE

Increased intracranial (in-tra-CRANE-ee-al) pressure (ICP) means greater than normal pressure on the brain. It results from an increased amount of fluid or swelling of the brain.

SIGNS OF INCREASED ICP

Watch for the following signs in your child (your child may not have all of these signs):

- Change in your child's behavior such as extreme irritability (crankiness) (unable to console) (Picture 1),
- Increasing sleepiness (doesn't act normally when you offer a favorite toy, or is difficult to wake up)
- Shrill cry or high-pitched cry
- Nausea (child feels like throwing up)
- Vomiting (throwing up) more than three times
- Complaining of a headache or stiff neck when waking up
- Convulsions (seizures)
- Difficulty walking (staggering or swaying)
- Weakness of one side of the body
- Eye changes (crossed eyes, droopy eyelids, trouble using eyes, unequal size of eye pupils)
- Blurred or double vision
- Increased head size (if your child is younger than 18 months)
- Full or tight fontanel (soft spot) if your child is younger than 18 months.
- Loss of consciousness (does not awaken when you touch and talk to him)
- Child just does not "look right" to you



Picture 1 Watch your child for changes in behavior.

WHEN TO CALL YOUR DOCTOR

Call the doctor if you notice any signs of increased intracranial pressure or if you have any questions or concerns. Your child may not have all of the signs and symptoms.

WHEN TO GET EMERGENCY HELP

- Loss of consciousness
- Convulsions (seizures) lasting longer than 5 minutes.

NUTRITION

You may give your child his normal foods unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT

- Your doctor will want to re-examine your child in one week.
- If you have not been given an appointment, call the doctor's office (phone)_____. It is very important to keep all appointments.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse or call _____.