

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
nationwidechildrens.org

SHUNT-O-GRAM

A ventricular (ven-TRICK-u-lar) shunt is a small tube that has been placed in your child's head (Picture 1). The shunt carries extra fluid from the head to an area of the abdomen (belly) (Picture 2).

If your doctor thinks your child's shunt is not working properly, your child may need to have a test called a shunt-o-gram. This test is done in the X-ray Department.

HOW THE TEST IS DONE

You do not need to do anything special to prepare for this test. During the test, the doctor shaves the hair around the shunt valve on the child's head. The doctor then cleans the area with disinfectant soap. A small needle is put into the valve of the shunt. Fluid is drawn out of the valve and sent to the lab for testing. A dye that shows up on X-rays is put into the valve and X-rays are then taken after 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 minutes. After pumping the shunt, X-rays are also taken to watch the dye pass through the shunt tube. This test will help tell if your child's shunt is kinked, broken, clogged, or just not working right. A bandage is placed over the shunt valve after the test.

AFTER THE TEST

- After the test your child may eat his usual foods and return to normal activities.
- The doctor will talk with you about the test results as soon as possible.
- Increased intracranial pressure (increased pressure in the head) occurs if the shunt is not working and fluid builds up inside the head. The nurses will show you how to watch for signs of increased intracranial pressure (see Page 2).

For Outpatient Use Only

Child's name _____

APPOINTMENT:

Date _____

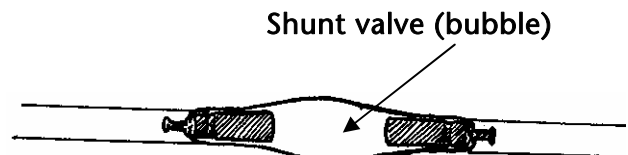
Procedure time _____

Please arrive 10 minutes before the procedure time to register.

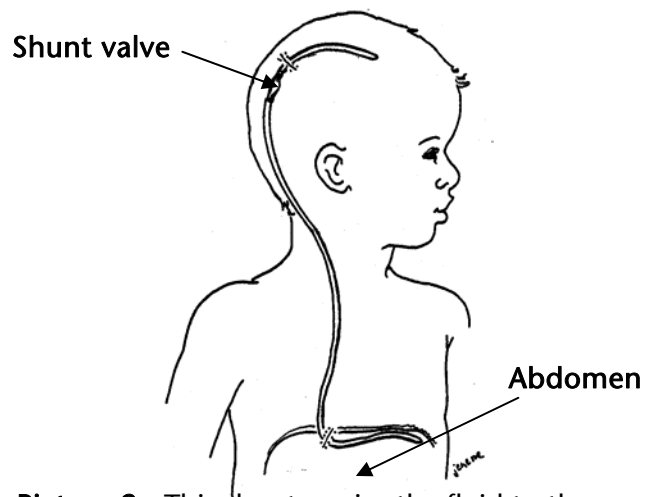
Bring your child to:

- The Radiology Department Registration Desk, first floor of the main building of Nationwide Children's Hospital.

If you need to cancel your appointment or reschedule, call (614) 722-6200.



Picture 1 The ventricular shunt.



Picture 2 This shunt carries the fluid to the abdomen.

SIGNS OF INCREASED INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE

- Change in your child's behavior, such as irritability (crankiness)
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Headache or stiff neck
- Increased sleepiness
- Bulging "soft spot" on top of an infant's head
- Swaying while walking
- Weakness on one side of the body
- Convulsions (seizures)
- Fever over 101°F axillary (underarm)
- Eye changes (crossed eyes, droopy eyelids, unequal pupils)
- Blurred or double vision
- Increased head size, especially if the child is under 18 months of age



Picture 3 Watch for changes in your child's behavior.

SIGNS OF INFECTION

- For 2 to 3 days after the test, watch for signs of infection or leakage of fluid from the area of the shunt valve.
- Fluid leaking out of the place where the needle was inserted
- Swelling over the shunt valve
- Redness or swelling along the shunt tube
- Fever over 101°F

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your child's doctor if you notice any signs of increased intracranial pressure or signs of infection.

If you have any questions about your child's test, please call the Department of Radiology at (614) 722-2350.