

## What is an external ventricular drain (EVD)?

An EVD is a system that drains fluid from the spaces in the brain called ventricles. There are 4 ventricles in the brain. They are filled with fluid called cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

## Why does my child need an EVD?

An EVD may be used to:

- Monitor intracranial pressure (ICP).
- Remove extra fluid in the ventricles.
- Relieve pressure when there is a blockage.
- Remove blood or other material from the brain after surgery.
- Drain infected fluid. Your child's doctor may:
  - Use the EVD to get fluid and test it to see if the infection has cleared.
  - Give your child antibiotics to help the infection go away.

## What does the fluid that drains out of the EVD look like?

- The fluid most often looks clear and colorless like water.
- It may look a little bloody right after the EVD is placed.
- If the EVD was placed for bleeding in the brain, the fluid may look very bloody and turn yellow over time.
- If the fluid is cloudy, there may be an infection.

## Can my child move while they have an EVD?

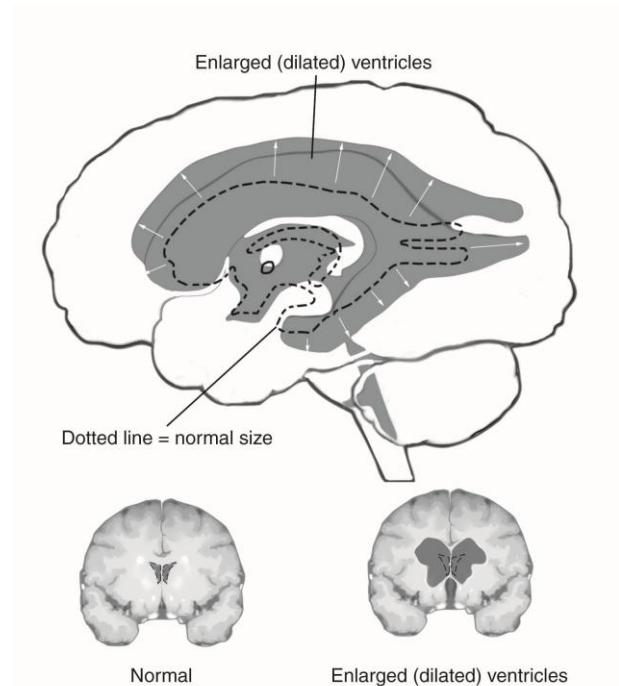
The EVD is set to stay at a certain level at all times to help with drainage.

- **Do not move your child above or below this level.**
- **Do not change the height of the bed or move the head of the bed up or down.**

Please call your child's nurse and wait for help before moving your child. A nurse will help move your child, so you can hold them or so they can go to the bathroom.

## How long will my child have an EVD?

Your child's doctor will remove the EVD after the extra fluid or extra pressure has been relieved. In some cases, the doctor may replace the EVD with a ventricular shunt that stays inside the body. They will talk with you about next steps if your child needs this.



**This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.**

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**