

HYDROCEPHALUS PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Hydrocephalus is a condition where cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is not absorbed by the brain (non-obstructive) or is unable to drain (obstructive) and builds up inside or around the brain, progressively increasing the pressure on the brain. Without treatment to relieve this pressure, the patient can suffer from growth and developmental abnormalities. Infants and toddlers with this condition may develop an abnormally large head circumference.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Altered LOC
- Headaches or seizures
- Vomiting
- Large or oddly shaped head (infants)
- Bulging fontanelles (infants)
- Fussy or difficulty feeding (infants)



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DIAGNOSTICS

- CT Scan
- MRI
- Lumbar Puncture

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Assess and Monitor Intracranial Regulation
- Maintain Safety and Prevent Injury
- Maintain Fluid Balance

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- External Ventricular Drain
- ICP Monitoring
- Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt
- Seizure Precautions

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Antiepileptic Drugs
- Diuretics
- Corticosteroids