

Patient Information

Neurosurgical Unit

Cranioplasty following traumatic brain injury: patient and carer information

This booklet is intended to provide general information about cranioplasty following traumatic brain injury.

Traumatic brain injuries vary in severity and each person is affected differently. It is important therefore that you speak to your own consultant or to the doctor or nurse who is looking after you as they are in a position to offer advice and information to meet your specific needs.

What does Cranioplasty mean?

As part of the treatment for your head injury, part of your skull was removed. To protect your brain, a titanium or acrylic plate will be attached to your skull. This operation is known as a cranioplasty.

Will I need an operation to put the plate in?

Yes. You will be admitted to Ward 43 and have the operation under a general anaesthetic.

Are there any risks?

These will be discussed with you before your operation.

When can I have the operation?

You will be seen by the Neurosurgical team in the Outpatient clinic to find out how you are. If you are well enough and feel you would like us to do this operation, we will put your name on the waiting list.



Do I have to have a Cranioplasty?

Depending on the size of the skull section removed, it may not be necessary to replace it. You will be able to talk it over with the doctor in the Outpatient clinic and they will help you decide the best treatment for you, according to your individual needs.

How do you know what size I need?

There are two ways to do this. The first uses the original piece of skull to act as a template. The second way is to have a scan of your skull from which detailed measurements are taken to produce an accurate fit.

How long will I need to stay in hospital?

This will depend on the instructions from your consultant neurosurgeon. On average, your hospital stay will usually be three to five days.

Will I need to have any stitches out?

You will have clips on your scalp that look like staples. These will need to stay in for approximately seven days and you will be asked to return to the ward for a wound check and for removal of your clips.

Will I be able to drive?

Please discuss this with your consultant who will advise you if you need to notify the DVLA.

Will I have a further check-up by the Neurosurgical team after I have gone home?

Yes, you will be sent an appointment through the post to see the team in the Outpatient clinic in about three months time.

Will the 'plate' stay on for the rest of my life?

Yes, the plate is permanent and should not interfere with your every day life.

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Is there anything that I cannot do with it?

The plate itself will not prevent you from doing anything, but you may be restricted by your original head injury.

Who can I ring if I am worried?

Please contact your General Practitioner (GP).

For further information or clarification, please contact the Neurosciences Unit. Ward 43 Tel. 024 7696 7802 or 024 7696 5330

National Contact Details:

Brain & Spine Helpline

Brain and Spine Foundation

LGO1 Lincoln House

Kennington Park

1-3 Brixton Road

London SW9 6DE

Tel: 0808 808 1000

www.brainandspine.org.uk

(Information and support on neurological disorders for patients, carers and health professionals)

British Epilepsy Association

Gate Way Drive

Yeadon

Leeds LS19 7XY

Tel: 0808 800 5050

www.epilepsy.org.uk

(Information, support, counselling and advice)

DVLA Drivers' Medical Group

DVLA

Longview Road

Swansea SA99 1TU

Tel: 0300 790 6806

(Fitness to drive)

Patient Information

Foundation for Conductive Education

Cannon Hill House
Russell Road
Moseley
Birmingham B13 8RD

Tel: 0121 449 1569

(Conductive education services for adults and children with head, and other brain injuries)

Headway

Bradbury House
190 Bagnall Road
Old Basford
Nottingham
NG6 8SF

Tel: 0808 800 2244

www.headway.org.uk

(Information, support and services to people with brain injuries)

National Society for Epilepsy

Chalfont St Peter
Gerrards Cross
Buckinghamshire SL9 0RJ

Tel: 01494 601400 helpline

(Medical support, counselling and information)

NHS 111

(Medical advice and information on NHS Services)

111 is the NHS non-emergency number. Call 111 and speak to a highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals. They will ask you a series of questions to assess your symptoms and immediately direct you to the best medical care for you.

NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Local Contact Details:

Headway Coventry and Warwickshire

Tel: 0808 800 2244

Email: headwaycw@aol.co.uk

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Ward 43 Neurosurgical Unit

UHCW NHS Trust,
Fourth Floor Central Tower,
TEL: 024 7696 8240 or 024 7696 5330

Paula Taylor Sapphire Nurse Specialist (Epilepsy),
Neurosciences Unit UHCW NHS Trust,
Bleep 1334 via Switchboard on 024 7696 4000

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 8240 or 024 7696 5330 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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