External Ventricular Drain (EVD)

This drain, also called a ventriculostomy, is a small tube placed into part of the brain called a ventricle. It is attached to a collection device outside the body. This device can be used to measure the pressure inside your brain, called intracranial pressure (ICP). Fluid known as cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) can build up inside the brain after a stroke or head injury causing pressure on the brain. The drain allows fluid to be removed to keep the pressure controlled.

This drain may be put in during surgery or at the bedside. The collection device may be placed at the head of the bed or on an IV pole. The amount of fluid draining will be measured. When the pressure is controlled without removing fluid, the drain will be removed.

Cautions while the drain is in place

Changing position without help can cause serious problems while the drain is in place. Be sure you move as directed by your nurse or doctor for your safety.

Call the nurse to help you before you:

- Change position in bed, or raise or lower your head.
- Get out of bed, even to go to the bathroom.
Having the drain in place can put you at risk for bleeding or infection. A dressing will be placed around the drain site to keep it clean. You will be checked for signs of infection. Samples of the fluid may also be tested.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.