An external ventricular drain (EVD) has been surgically inserted into your child to provide an alternate route for the drainage of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF). This is usually done because the VP shunt is infected.

**Care of Your Child while the EVD is in Place:**

**Activity:**

- Your child’s activity will be limited while the EVD is in place. These activity limitations may vary during your child’s hospitalization. Talk with your child’s nurse each day regarding your child’s activity restrictions. While your child is on bed rest, your child will need diversional activities. The Child Life therapist and nursing staff can provide you with insight into appropriate activities for you to use with your child.

- Contact nursing staff before changing your child’s position. In order for the best CSF drainage, the EVD must be kept at a certain level and may need to be readjusted when changing positions.

**Nursing Care:**

- Your child’s neurological functions will be assessed periodically by nursing staff. Depending on your child, this assessment may include level of consciousness (LOC), motor strength and/or pupil reactivity.

- Nursing staff will be measuring your child’s CSF drainage. Replacement IV fluids may be initiated to account for this drainage.

- Our goal is to keep your child as comfortable as possible. The Neurosurgery Team will order pain medications for your child. The nursing staff will check your child’s pain level and give the medication as needed.

**Managing the Infection:**

- Your child will have an intravenous line (IV) after surgery. Your child will be receiving antibiotic therapy for his CSF infection through this line. A member of the Neurosurgery team will be collecting CSF samples to monitor the appropriateness of the antibiotic therapy.

Each patient is unique, and the care of your child’s EVD will be conducted to meet his needs. Talk to your child’s nurse with any concerns you may have regarding the care of your child and his EVD.