



CRANIECTOMY/BURR HOLE DRAINAGE FOR SUBDURAL HEMATOMA
CONSENT FORM

Patient:

You have been scheduled for a craniectomy/burr hole drainage of a subdural hematoma. Your surgery is scheduled for _____. There is a collection of blood over the surface of the brain that is putting pressure on the brain. The surgery is typically performed under local anesthetic, however, in certain cases a general anesthetic may be used. The surgery involves shaving your head over the involved area and making an incision in your scalp and removing a small amount of bone over the area of the blood clot and opening the covering over the brain and removing the blood clot off the surface of the brain. Once the clot is removed, a temporary drain will be placed over the brain and the scalp will be closed with sutures and staples.

As with any surgery, there are risks that may occur during the surgery and in the postoperative period, including but not limited to:

1. Blood loss and the need for transfusion: If you require a transfusion the donated blood is carefully screened for AIDS (HIV) and hepatitis, but there are risks of you developing such infections from a transfusion.
2. Infection: There is a risk for infection. Antibiotics will be given to you right before the surgery and for at least 24 hours postoperatively in order to minimize the risks for infection.
3. Brain injury or stroke which may result in paralysis, visual loss, speech loss or other neurologic deficits depending upon the location of the blood clot. There is also a possibility of developing seizures, which will require medical treatment.
4. Lack of benefit of surgery with persistent or worsening of symptoms.
5. Reaccumulation of the clot, which may require reoperation through the same incisions or a more extensive surgery under general anesthesia in order to remove the blood clot.
6. Inability to remove the clot under a local anesthetic necessitating a more extensive surgery under general anesthesia.
7. Leakage of cerebrospinal fluid from the incision, which may require placement of a spinal drainage catheter or reoperation to repair the leak.
8. Pressure sores or nerve injuries that may occur from positioning on the OR table even though every effort is made to pad these areas. This may be temporary or permanent.
9. Deep venous thrombosis (blood clot in legs), pulmonary embolism.

10. Risks of anesthesia: Adverse reaction to anesthesia given or any medication given during the surgery.
11. Cosmetic deformities of the scalp including scar tissue formation and depressions in the skull in areas where bone was removed.
12. Heart attack, coma and death.

I acknowledge that I have read the above consent form and all options and alternative treatments were discussed to me by Drs. Hartwell/Sarris. In addition, all of the above risks were discussed with me in detail, in laymen's terms, by Drs. Hartwell/Sarris and I understand all the above risks and possible complications and wish to proceed with surgery.

1. No aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin or anti-inflammatory for one week prior to surgery.
2. Nothing to eat or drink after 12:01 a.m. on _____.
3. Take the following medicines on the day of surgery with a small sip of water.

Patient: _____

Date: _____