

edema of cerebral tissues. Once compensation is exhausted, any further increase in the cranium's volume will result in a rapid rise in ICP.

Early signs and symptoms of increased ICP are often subtle and assume many patterns (Box 27-1). As pressure increases, signs and symptoms become more pronounced, and the level of consciousness (LOC) deteriorates from drowsiness or eventual coma.

Box 27-1

Clinical Manifestations of Increased Intracranial Pressure in Infants and Children

Infants

Tense, bulging fontanel
Separated cranial sutures
Macewen (cracked-pot) sign
Irritability and restlessness
Drowsiness
Increased sleeping
High-pitched cry
Increased frontooccipital circumference
Distended scalp veins
Poor feeding
Crying when disturbed
Setting-sun sign