

Hydrocephalus

Three-year-old Emma had a posterior fossa tumor removed 5 days ago. Although an EVD was placed to treat her hydrocephalus, she continues to demonstrate signs of increased ICP, including holding the back of her head, anorexia, crying when moved or when strangers enter the room, and intermittent lethargy. On examination, fluid drainage is noted on the mother's clothes, and Emma is experiencing repetitive, rapid eyelid blinking.

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence to draw conclusions about Emma's behavior, physical assessment findings, and ICP?
2. Assumptions: Describe any underlying assumption about each of the following:
 - a. A preschool-age child who had a posterior fossa tumor removed 5 days ago
 - b. A preschool-age child who has an EVD placed to treat the hydrocephalus
 - c. A preschool-age child with an EVD who continues to demonstrate physical signs associated with increased ICP after recent surgery
3. What priorities for nursing care should be established?
4. Does the evidence support your nursing intervention?

EVD, External ventricular drain; *ICP*, intracranial pressure.

With the bolt method, the end of the bolt is placed into the subarachnoid space. The bolt cannot be adequately secured in a small child's pliant skull, although special modifications have been developed for children younger than 6 years old. The placement of