

maternal primiparity ([Swanson, Veldman, Wallace, et al, 2012](#)). The bleeding extends beyond bone, often posteriorly into the neck, and continues after birth with the potential for serious complications, such as anemia or hypovolemic shock.

Early detection of the hemorrhage is vital; serial head circumference measurements and inspection of the back of the neck for increasing edema and a firm mass are essential. A boggy fluctuant mass over the scalp that crosses the suture line and moves as the baby is repositioned is an early sign of subgaleal hemorrhage. Other signs include pallor, tachycardia, and increasing head circumference ([Mouhayar and Charafeddine, 2012](#)). Another sign of subgaleal hemorrhage is a forward and lateral positioning of the newborn's ears because the hematoma extends posteriorly. Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) has also been reported in association with subgaleal hemorrhage ([Schierholz and Walker, 2010](#)). Computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is useful in confirming the diagnosis. Replacement of lost blood and clotting factors is required in acute cases of hemorrhage. Monitoring the infant for changes in level of consciousness and a decrease in the hematocrit are also key to early recognition and management. An increase in serum bilirubin levels may be seen as a result of the degradation of red blood cells (RBCs) within the hematoma.

Nursing Care Management

Nursing care is directed toward assessment and observation of the common scalp injuries and vigilance in observing for possible associated complications (such as infection) or, as in the case of subgaleal hemorrhage, acute blood loss and hypovolemia. Nursing care of a newborn with a subgaleal hemorrhage includes careful monitoring for signs of hemodynamic instability and shock ([Schierholz and Walker, 2010](#)). Because caput succedaneum and cephalhematoma usually resolve spontaneously, parents need reassurance of their usual benign nature.

Fractures

The **clavicle**, or **collarbone**, is the bone most frequently fractured during the birth process. Clavicular fracture is more common with