



CRANIOTOMY & EVACUATION OF EXTRADURAL HAEMATOMA

A small extradural haematoma with no neurological deficit may be monitored closely in hospital with regular CT scans. Anything else will require prompt operative evacuation via a craniotomy. If there is an overlying skull fracture this may also be fixed at the operation with plates or sutures if indicated. If there is minimal underlying brain injury you will expect to leave hospital after 2 to 3 days.

OPERATION

A general anaesthetic will be given and an incision made overlying the site of the extradural haematoma. A small piece of skull bone is removed (craniotomy) and the blood clot found and removed. Any obvious sites of bleeding are stopped with the diathermy. The bone is then replaced and secured with titanium plates and staples placed in the skin.

Risks of this procedure

The risks of this operation include the following. A detailed discussion with your surgeon is recommended prior to surgery.

- Infection – superficial wound infection or deeper infections including meningitis, osteomyelitis
- Bleeding – which may be superficial or deeper with reaccumulation of haematoma requiring a second operation
- Seizures
- Permanent neurological damage in the form of weakness, numbness, paralysis
- Coma
- Death (rarely)

Long term effects

Most patients recover fully from having an extra-dural haematoma. If there is underlying brain injury there may be residual stroke-like symptoms or altered personality.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne

St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy
Phone: (03) 9411 7111

Website: www.svphm.org.au

St Vincent's Private Hospital East Melbourne
Phone: (03) 9928 6555

Website: www.svphm.org.au

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

St Vincent's Hospital Fitzroy
Telephone: (03) 9231 2211

Website: www.svhm.org.au

Neurosurgery

Dr. Kristian Bulluss
Phone: (03) 9416 4619

Dr. Peter McNeill
Phone: (03) 9928 6333

Dr. Paul Smith
Phone: (03) 9639 3889

Dr. Carlos Chung
Phone: (03) 9419 5597

Assoc. Prof. Michael Murphy
Phone: (03) 9416 4619

Dr. Christopher Thien
Phone: (03) 9421 0355

Dr. Tiew Han
Phone: (03) 03 9417

Dr. Brendan O'Brien
Phone: (03) 9417 5033

Dr. Yi Yuen (Ian) Wang
Phone: (03) 9939 7112

Neurology

Prof. Mark Cook
Phone: (03) 9288 3068