

The Neurosurgery practice at Valley Children's specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of diseases and conditions of the central nervous system for infants, children, and adolescents. Our neurosurgeons perform surgeries such as craniotomies, insertion or revision of ventricular shunts, insertion of vagus nerve stimulators and repair of myelomeningoceles. The most common operations are for the treatment of hydrocephalus and include insertion or revisions of shunts and endoscopic third ventriculostomies. Other procedures include craniotomies for brain tumors and trauma, repair of congenital malformations, insertions of intrathecal baclofen infusion pumps, cranial reconstruction and release of tethered cords.

Congenital malformations treated include neural tube defects like tethered cord syndrome, spina bifida, myelomeningoceles, lipomyelomeningoceles, dermal sinus tracts, split cord malformations, diastematomyelia and encephaloceles. The team treats disorders of the cerebrospinal fluid circulation including hydrocephalus, CSF shunt malfunctions, syringomyelia, Chiari malformations, pseudotumor cerebri, aqueductal stenosis, and arachnoid cysts. Head and spine deformities treated include positional molding of infancy, plagiocephaly, craniosynostosis, craniofacial anomalies, and macrocephaly. The team also treats central nervous system tumors, head and spine trauma, central nervous system vascular malformations, spasticity and epilepsy.

Neurosurgery is also part of several multidisciplinary teams at Valley Children's. Children with brain and spinal tumors receive treatment in Valley Children's neuro-oncology program, and neurosurgeons work with the craniofacial program, the spina bifida clinic, spasticity clinic and the epilepsy team.

Access Center

24/7 access for referring physicians
(866) 353-KIDS (5437)

Outpatient Referral

Referral forms online at valleychildrens.org/refer
FAX: (559) 353-8888

Neurosurgery Office Numbers

Main: (559) 353-6277
FAX: (559) 353-5424
Physician Line: (559) 353-5598

Physician Liason

(559) 353-7229

Medical Staff

Gary Magram, MD
Medical Director

Patricia Clerkin, MD
Meredith Woodward, MD

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Brain and Spinal Cord Abscesses	Document neurological symptoms and signs, rate of progression, previous treatments including surgery	If patient is symptomatic or with a positive scan -- send for evaluation by Infectious Disease first
Tumors	MRI of affected area with or without contrast	Positive scan
Cysts of the Brain	MRI of brain with positive results	If pseudotumor cerebri, need documentation of ICP
Cerebral Palsy/Spasticity	Document neurological symptoms and signs, treatment history, and response to prior therapies	Secondary referral after Neurology or Rehabilitation consult
Chiari Malformation	Document neurological symptoms and signs including headache, swallowing difficulties, hand weakness, or numbness MRI of head and cervical spine Consider MRI CINE flow study	Positive scan
Craniosynostosis	Skull X-ray	Positive X-ray or abnormal head shape
Chiari Malformation	Document neurological symptoms and signs including headache, swallowing difficulties, hand weakness, or numbness MRI of head and cervical spine Consider MRI CINE flow study	Positive scan

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Craniosynostosis	Skull X-ray	Positive X-ray or abnormal head shape
Encephalocele	MRI of area of concern	Usually referred at birth
Hydrocephalus	Chart growth in head circumference, history of prematurity/hemorrhage, and prior therapy or surgery CT / MRI / ultrasound of head	Positive physical findings, scan or documentation
Macrocephaly	Increased head circumference with chart	Routine referral unless symptomatic
Lipomyelomeningocele	MRI of back Documentation noting defect	Positive physical findings, scan or documentation
Neural Tube Defects	Ultrasound if infant	Positive scan
Myelomeningocele	Document neurological symptoms and signs, prior surgical therapy MRI of affected area	Positive physical findings, scan or documentation
Dermal Sinus Tract	Document neurological symptoms and signs, prior surgical therapy MRI of affected area	Positive physical findings, scan or documentation
Syringomyelia	MRI of affected area	Secondary referral after Orthopaedics consult

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Seizures/Epilepsy	VNS referral	Secondary referral after Neurology consult
Cysts, Lumps and Bumps to Head	Document history of affected area; MRI / CT / X-ray as indicated	Routine referral upon positive physical finding or scan
Vascular Disorders of the Brain and Spinal Cord	Document neurological and cardiovascular symptoms and signs, history of bleeding, TIA, or stroke MRA / CTA / cerebral angiogram MRI of brain with contrast	Positive physical findings, scan or documentation If symptomatic, call Neurosurgery for a referral
Skull Fracture/Intracranial Bleed/ Post-Traumatic Event	MRI / CT of brain	Positive physical findings or scan

Valley Children's contracts with the following health plans for hospital and physician services.*

If you have questions, please call us at **(559) 353-7238** to speak with a contracting representative.

Insurance Plans*

Aetna EPO / HMO / PPO

AllCare IPA

Bakersfield Family Medical Center / Heritage Physician Network

Blue Cross HMO / Prudent Buyer PPO / Healthy Families EPO

Blue Cross Medi-Cal / Healthy Families HMO

Blue Shield HMO / PPO / Healthy Families

Capp Care (Beachstreet)

Catholic Healthcare West-Bakersfield

CCS – California Children's Services

Central California Alliance for Health

Central Valley Medical Group CVMG

Choice Care

Cigna / Greatwest

Delano Regional Medical Group

EHS IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal Patients / Healthy Families)

Emmanuel Employee Benefit Plan

First Health / CCN

Foundation HealthCare Administrators / California Foundation for Medical Care

GemCare IPA/ Managed Care Systems

Health Net HMO / PPO / Healthy Families / Healthy Kids

Health Net Medi-Cal / CalViva

Health Plan San Joaquin Medi-Cal / Healthy Families

Hill Physician Medical Group

Interplan

Kaiser HMO / Healthy Families / Medi-Cal

Kern Health Systems Medi-Cal / Healthy Families

Key / Mosaic Medical Group IPA

LaSalle IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal)

Medicare

MediCal – California State

MedCore Medical Group

Multiplan / PHCS

Sante IPA

Sutter Gould Medical Foundation

Sutter Hospital System (Modesto Memorial, Memorial Los Banos, Sutter Tracy)

TriWest (Formally TRICARE / CHAMPUS)

United HealthCare / PacifiCare

Universal Care

*Plans may be subject to change.