

Hydrocephalus

This condition, caused by an excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid is a result of an imbalance in fluid production and absorption. It can result from developmental anomalies, injury, infection or brain tumors. Common characteristics of hydrocephalus include: Increased cranial pressure, dilation of brain cavities, rapidly increasing skull circumference, downward eye deviation, bulging fontanelles (soft spots) and prominent scalp veins.

Children with hydrocephalus may exhibit: severe nausea or vomiting and/or headaches, excessive fatigue, difficulty staying awake, seizures, visual impairment and irritability.

Treatment involves passing a shunt through the brain into the abdomen to drain the fluid