

Department of Neurosurgery

Craniotomy

What to expect while you
are in hospital



Craniotomy

This leaflet explains what to expect when you are in hospital and during the recovery period.

The name of your operation is

You should expect to be in hospital nights.

Admission date is

Discharge date is

Day of Admission

On the day of admission you need to phone at **12.00hrs** to check that a bed is available for you. The phone number is: **01865 231526**. You will be given a time to come in when the bed is available. Surgery is usually planned for the following day.

Alternatively, you may be asked to come in on the day of surgery. You will then be told when to stop eating and drinking and what time to arrive on the day of surgery.

We aim to admit all patients for their surgery as planned but as we also have emergency admissions there are times when operations needs to be re-scheduled.

Please come to the Neurosciences Ward level 2 at the West Wing of the John Radcliffe Hospital. Parking is available under and around the West Wing building.

In accordance with our Privacy and Dignity policy we will always try give you a bed in a bay with other people of the same sex and to make sure you have access to the appropriate shower and toilet facilities. During your hospital stay we may need to move you to another bed or ward. In rare circumstances we may have to put men and women in the same bay. In this case we will make every effort to move you to a single sex bay as soon as possible.

With your permission we will list your name and bed number on a poster board so that all our staff know where you are on the ward.

Visiting hours on the ward are from 3pm to 8.30pm. This allows patients to have time to rest. We request that only **2 people** visit at any one time. Flowers are no longer allowed on the wards for the purposes of health and safety and infection control.

The nurse will explain the menu system and how to order food.

The day of your operation

The nurse will tell you when to get ready for theatre. You will be asked to wear a theatre gown and special stockings to reduce the risk of a blood clot (deep vein thrombosis) developing in your leg.

The Surgeon will see you before your operation to explain the operation and any risks involved and to answer any questions you may have. The Anaesthetist will also see you to talk to you about the anaesthetic. You will then be asked to sign the consent form for the operation to go ahead. When it's time for your operation the nurse will take you down to the anaesthetic room, where we will prepare you for your operation.

After the operation

You will wake up in the recovery room. There will be a drip in the back of your hand and you may have a fine tube in your head wound, connected to a drain.

Once you are awake and stable a nurse will take you back to the ward. The nurse will monitor your pulse, blood pressure and wound regularly and also check your neurological status by asking questions, checking arm and leg movement and observing pupil reaction by shining light into your eyes.

We will offer you regular pain relief. It is important that you tell a nurse if you are feeling sick or if you have pain so we can help make you comfortable. It is also important that you change your position in bed at least once every 2-3 hours; the nurses will help you if necessary.

Approximately 24 hours after surgery you will be able to sit up in bed or in a chair. The nurses will help you wash, dress and eat as required. Over the next few days most of the tubes will be removed and you can gently start to walk around. It is not unusual to experience headaches for some time and you should tell the nurses so that they can give you more pain relief medication if you need it.

Going home

Today you will be given you a copy of our booklet '**After Cranial Surgery**'. This booklet contains information on what to expect after you get home.

We will give you a short-term supply of tablets to take home. Your nurse will explain what they are and when to take them.

We will also give you a letter for your Practise Nurse as you may need to make an appointment to have your stitches removed – if they have not already been removed in the hospital.

Questions or concerns

If you have any questions that you would like to discuss before you come into hospital or after you have left hospital you can contact one of the Nurse Practitioners on:

Direct line 01865 234975

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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