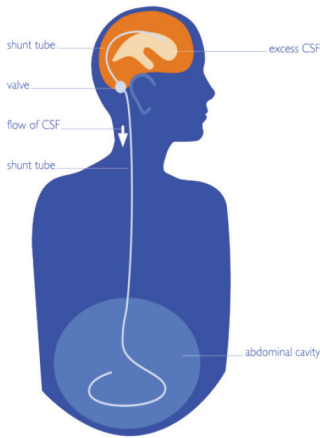




Hydrocephalus and Shunts

Hydrocephalus is an excess accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain cavities putting pressure on the brain and the nerve fibres. There are a number of side effects including brain damage and death if the condition is left untreated.



There is no cure.

The most common treatment is insertion of a shunt and valve configuration to take excess fluid from the brain to another part of the body, usually the abdomen. It is estimated that **30% of these implants fail** within the first year and 50% within the first two years.

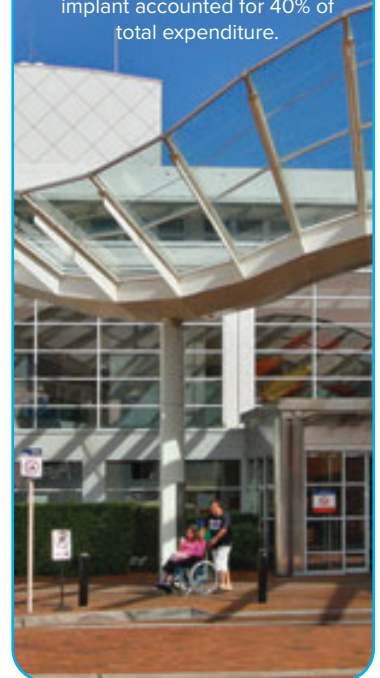
Why do we need a Shunt Registry?

1 in 800

babies is born with Hydrocephalus however the condition can be acquired at any stage in life often as the result of head trauma or later in life for reasons unknown.

A study conducted at Children's Hospital, Westmead in 2013 calculated that its **annual cost for treating Hydrocephalus is \$1.59M** with an average cost per patient with shunt infection of **\$80,163**. Costs associated with treating infections resulting from a shunt implant accounted for 40% of total expenditure.

The Shunt Registry collects data on all shunt operations to assess any correlation between shunt types and reasons for failure or indications for shunt revision. The data collected may also provide indicators for improving shunt design and/or medical procedures.



Development of the Australasian Shunt Registry

In 2013 – 2014 the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia (NSA) received \$165,000 from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing towards development of a Shunt Registry. This funding was used to contract Monash University to develop and host the Shunt Registry database.



The Registry became operational in late 2016. There are currently 99% of all eligible sites throughout Australasia contributing data. This includes both public and private, adult and paediatric hospitals.

Funding Challenges



The Shunt Registry requires funding of **\$100,000 per year** to support its ongoing operation. The NSA has been raising financial support from various quarters however this funding is not recurrent. Since the beginning of 2016, the HSA and its members have donated over \$63,700 to the Shunt Registry project and continues its fundraising efforts.

