

Commercial airline passengers are subject to numerous medical risks while in transit. Seventeen long-haul airline companies were questioned concerning fitness to travel and the case of a patient wishing to travel post craniotomy. Three airline companies gave satisfactory medical information, while the remaining airlines felt it was the decision of the operating surgeon rather than the airline company. A literature review shows that post operative pneumocephalus and the risk of tension pneumocephalus is the major medical concern when transporting patients post craniotomy. Evidence is contradictory with respect to the importance of this potentially life threatening problem. Postoperative 100% oxygen may improve the rate of pneumocephalus absorption. Airline companies have an unstandardised approach to unique medical problems, resulting in increased responsibility for the attending surgeon who may be ill equipped to deal with poorly researched aviation medicine. <sup>1)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup>

Seth R, Mir S, Dhir JS, Cheeseman C, Singh J. Fitness to fly post craniotomy—a survey of medical advice from long-haul airline carriers. Br J Neurosurg. 2009 Apr;23(2):184-7. doi: 10.1080/02688690802669351. Review. PubMed PMID: 19306175.

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