

Intracranial hypotension treatment

If the site of the spinal CSF leak can be identified, then options include:

Epidural blood patch, performed by an anesthesiologist pain management specialist.

Surgical repair of the defect.

Over-draining CSF shunts are managed by replacing the valve with one that drains less.

Lumboperitoneal shunts may have to be removed or ligated.

Postural headache due to **intracranial hypotension** (true **overshunting**) is usually self limited, however, if symptoms persist after = 3 days of **bed rest** and analgesics and a trial with a tight abdominal binder, the **valve** should be checked for proper closing pressure. If it is low, replace with a higher pressure valve. If it is not low, an **antisiphon device** alone or together with a higher pressure valve may be needed ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Hyde-Rowan MD, Rekate HL, Nulsen FE. Reexpansion of previously collapsed ventricles: the slit ventricle syndrome. J Neurosurg. 1982 Apr;56(4):536-9. PubMed PMID: 7062125.

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