

## Neonatal Hydrocephalus: When to intervene

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**N**eonatal hydrocephalus is a neurologic congenital condition where excess CSF accumulates in the brain's ventricles and aqueducts, causing increased intracranial pressure. Global rising rates of neonatal hydrocephalus call for a better understanding of the etiology and advancement of more modernized therapeutic approaches. Currently, causes of neonatal hydrocephalus are believed to be genetic or from acquired injuries. Socioeconomic factors and maternal comorbidities also affect the health outcomes of neonatal hydrocephalus patients. Evaluation of development, presence and recovery from neonatal hydrocephalus are through brain imaging, physical examination and history taking. Infants with the condition most experience little loss of neurological function, but a significant fraction also faces worsening morbidities and sudden fatality. The two major treatments for the condition are Ventriculo-Subgaleal Shunt (VSGS) and Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy (ETV) and both carry high risks of perioperative complications. Nevertheless, the chosen therapy for each patient requires consideration of their health status and more importantly, their informed decision. The patient should also be informed about postoperative management and the importance of regular follow-ups with their neurosurgeon and neurologist.

### Biography

Brandon Lucke-Wold was born and raised in Colorado Springs, CO. He graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Neuroscience and distinction in honors from Baylor University. He completed his MD/PhD, Master's in Clinical and Translational Research and the Global Health Track at West Virginia University School of Medicine. His research focus was on traumatic brain injury, neurosurgical simulation and stroke. At West Virginia University, he also served as a health coach for the Diabetes Prevention and Management program in Morgantown and Charleston, WV, which significantly improved health outcomes for participants. In addition to his research and public health projects, he is a co-founder of the biotechnology company Wright-Wold Scientific, the pharmaceutical company CTE cure and was a science advocate on Capitol Hill through the Washington Fellow's program.

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