

20 POWERFUL FACTS ABOUT HYDROCEPHALUS

1. Hydrocephalus is a life threatening condition that affects approximately 1 million Americans.
2. Anyone, at any age, can develop hydrocephalus.
3. One out of every 770 babies will develop hydrocephalus, making it as common as Down's syndrome and more common than spina bifida or brain tumors.
4. There is no way to prevent hydrocephalus and there is no cure. The only known treatment requires brain surgery.
5. Hydrocephalus is the most common reason for brain surgery in children.
6. The most common surgical treatment for hydrocephalus is the implantation of a device called a shunt to drain fluid from the brain.
7. An estimated 50% of shunts in the pediatric population fail within two years of placement and repeated neurosurgical operations are often required.
8. There are approximately 10,000 pediatric hospital admissions for shunt malfunctions each year.
9. Hydrocephalus and a shunt can mean a lifetime of multiple brain surgeries. Dozens of brain surgeries are common and 100 or more is not unheard of.
10. The core technology used to develop the shunt has not changed significantly since the 1950's.
11. Over 36,000 shunt surgeries are performed each year (one every 15 minutes) and more than half of them represent emergencies.
12. Pediatric hydrocephalus alone accounts for more than 40,000 hospital admissions each year (433,000 hospital days.)
13. The hospital charges for hydrocephalus are over \$2 billion per year.
14. Nearly 40% of infants diagnosed with hydrocephalus develop behavioral issues and 20% will develop autism.
15. Since 2000, more than 370,000 U.S. service members have sustained a traumatic brain injury, one cause of hydrocephalus. It is estimated that 14% of those who suffered a severe TBI could develop hydrocephalus.
16. An estimated 700,000 older Americans are believed to have NPH, but often are misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or dementia. When correctly diagnosed and treated the patient often can return to full functioning!
17. Accurately diagnosing adult hydrocephalus would save Medicare in excess of \$184MM over five years.
18. The Hydrocephalus Association provides free support and education to individuals, families and medical professionals dealing with the complex issues of this condition.
19. Since 2009, HA has invested over \$11 million in research, making it the largest non-profit, non-governmental funder of hydrocephalus research in the U.S. Our grantees have gone on to secure over \$32 million in additional funding to continue their research.
20. Thanks to HA's Research Initiative, there are 8 drugs currently being tested that could have a major impact on people living with hydrocephalus.

