



Kids Brain Doc

Dr. Laila Mohammad

Dermoid Cyst

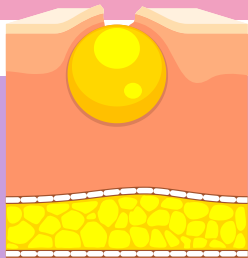
Patient Packet



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Diagnosis: Dermoid Cyst



What is it?

A slow-growing benign cyst that can occur in the scalp and skull. This happens when a small piece of skin gets trapped under the surface. Inside the cyst, skin cells, tissues, and glands gather together. These glands can keep making fluid, which can make the cyst grow.

Who does it affect?

Babies are born with them, but they become more noticeable as infants and young children grow.

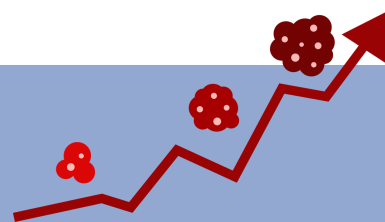


How did my child get it?

These cysts develop when the skin layers don't come together properly in early fetal growth. They usually appear at birth and happen randomly, so it's not related to anything parents did or didn't do during pregnancy.

Is it Harmful?

Most dermoid cysts aren't harmful, but they don't disappear on their own. They might gradually grow, erode into the skull, get infected, or in rare cases, extend past the skull and into the brain.



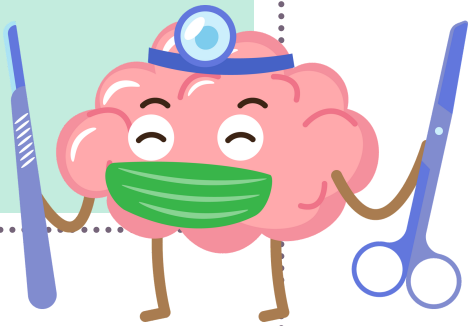
What is the Treatment?

Surgery is recommended to remove the cyst and its lining, which helps ensure it doesn't come back. This usually solves the problem and stops it from causing any more issues.

Surgery: Dermoid Cyst Resection

1 Goals of Surgery

- Fully remove the dermoid cyst
- Take a tissue sample to send to pathology for diagnosis



2 Risks of Surgery

- Infection, Bleeding
- The scar not looking the way you like
- Recurrence of the cyst if a small portion remains

3 Alternatives

- Continued observation – however, it won't disappear by itself. If it continues to grow with time, it may make future surgery more difficult

4 Right after Surgery

- Incision will be covered with antibiotic ointment and left open to air
- Pain medications: IV Tylenol, IV Toradol
- Recovery in the recovery room (PACU)



5 Hospital Recovery

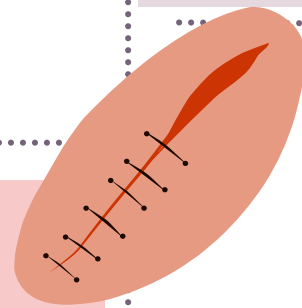
- Once your child is taking all their medicine by mouth, eating/drinking, peeing, and moving okay, your child can go home the same day



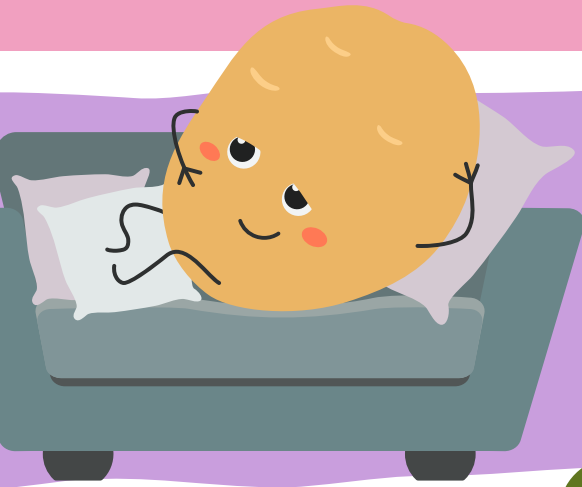
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Incision Care

- Ok to shower 2 days after surgery. Wash daily
- No bathing or soaking incision in tub for 4 weeks after surgery
- Incision will fall off on its own in 3-4 weeks
- No need to cover the incision



Recovery & Follow-Up



ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

- Week 0-2: Light activity
- At 4-weeks: Clear for all activities

HOME CARE

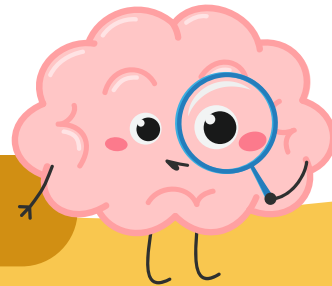
Will see in clinic for incision check at 2 weeks.
Can return to school or daycare after this appointment.

FOLLOW-UP

- 2-weeks: incision check
- 6-weeks: send a picture
- 3 months: send a picture



LONG-TERM CARE



- Complete removal of a dermoid cyst is usually curative, and most children do not require additional imaging or long-term follow-up.
- Although uncommon, dermoid cysts can recur if a small portion of the cyst lining remains after surgery. Please let us know if you notice a new lump developing near the surgical site.