

## **Craniotomy Surgery**

### **-Risks of surgery:**

- \*There is always a low risk of infection (wound infection, meningitis) and/or bleeding with any craniotomy, as well as risk from anesthesia.
- \*Additional rare risks include death, stroke, temporary or permanent facial weakness/numbness/vision change, dizziness or imbalance, permanent hearing loss.

### **-Day of surgery:**

- \*Most often you should expect a hospital stay of 3-7 days on average.
- \*Some people require a lumbar drain for spinal fluid drainage- your surgeon will discuss this with you if necessary.
- \*Do not eat or drink after midnight the day prior to surgery (no coffee or breakfast the day of surgery).
- \*Your primary care physician and/or anesthesiologist will review your medication instructions with you and instruct you what to avoid the morning of surgery.

### **-Post-operative care:**

- \*A head dressing will be in place from 3-5 days.
- \*You may wash your hair 5 days after the surgery- over the sink with a cup over the ear and incision. Keep incision dry one week.
- \*You will be given pain medication after the procedure. We will only refill pain medication for post-operative pain for up to two weeks after the procedure, then you must discuss with your primary care physician.
- \*You may not drive while on pain medication. You are safe to drive when you are off this medication and able to look into your blind spots and all mirrors without getting dizzy.
- \*No nose blowing, heavy lifting over 5 pounds, heavy exercise, or bending over with head down for 6 weeks. This includes activities such as pulling weeds, etc, or anything that requires exertion. This will increase the pressure in your head and increase your risk for spinal fluid leak.
- \*Most people take about 6 weeks off from work or normal activities- you may return to work sooner if desired.
- \*You can expect to feel very tired for a least 6 weeks; this is a part of normal recovery.

### **-Additional post-operative information:**

- \*If you wear glasses, you may want to remove an arm as to be able to use your glasses with the head dressing in place and not put pressure over the incision.
- \*It is normal to hear funny noises in the ear (buzzing, ringing, popping) and feel pressure or occasional sharp/shooting pains while the area heals.
- \*Call the office for any swelling, and/or redness of the incision site, fever, mental status changes, or other concerns.