

About Your Ommaya Reservoir Placement Surgery for Pediatric Patients

About Your Surgery	3
Before Your Surgery	5
Preparing for Your Surgery.....	6
Common Medications Containing Aspirin and Other Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs).....	14
Herbal Remedies and Cancer Treatment.....	17
Information for Family and Friends for the Day of Surgery.....	19
After Your Surgery	23
What to Expect	24
Resources	27
MSK Resources	28
External Resources.....	30
.....	
.....	
.....	

About Your Surgery

This guide will help you prepare for your surgery to have your Ommaya reservoir placed. For the rest of this resource, our use of the words “you” and “your” refer to you or your child.

About your Ommaya Reservoir

An Ommaya reservoir is a quarter-sized, soft, plastic, dome-shaped device that is placed under the scalp. The reservoir is connected to a catheter (thin, flexible tube) that is placed into your brain, in one of your ventricles (see Figures 1 and 2).

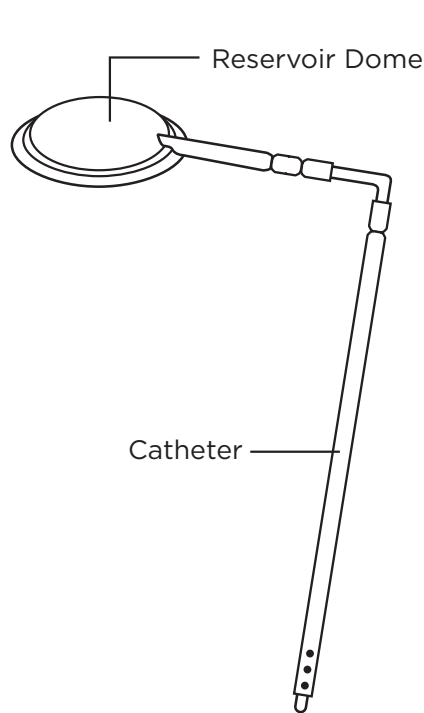


Figure 1: Ommaya reservoir

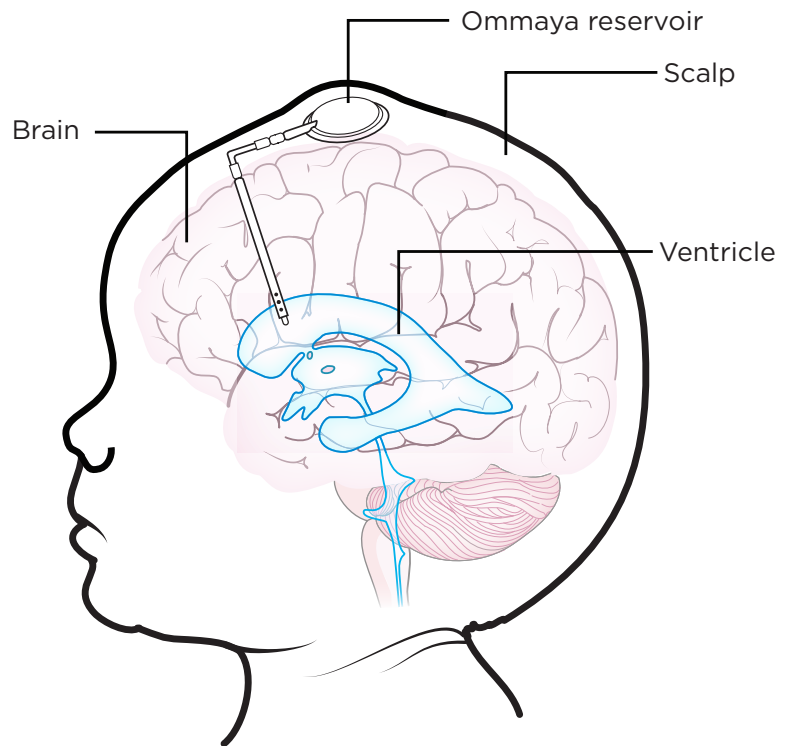


Figure 2: Placement of the Ommaya reservoir

An Ommaya reservoir will help your doctor or nurse practitioner:

- Get samples of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). CSF is the fluid that surrounds your brain and spinal cord. It is made in your ventricles. Your doctor or nurse practitioner can check your CSF for cancer cells in your spinal fluid and infections in the lining around your brain.
- Give you medication, such as chemotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, or antibiotics directly into your CSF

These procedures are referred to as an “Ommaya reservoir tap.” You may need fewer spinal taps, if you have an Ommaya reservoir.

About Your Ommaya Reservoir Surgery

The surgery to place your Ommaya reservoir is done in the operating room while you are asleep. Once you are asleep, the hair along your incision line will be shaved. Your entire head will not be shaved.

Your neurosurgeon will make a C-shaped incision (surgical cut) behind your hairline. He or she will insert the reservoir dome under your scalp. Your neurosurgeon will pass the catheter through your brain into the space where CSF forms. He or she will close your incision with sutures (stitches).

The surgery will take about 1 hour.

Possible Complications from Surgery

The surgery to place your Ommaya reservoir can cause some complications. These complications are listed below.

- There is a small risk that you could bleed into your brain.
- There is a small risk that you could have some loss of function. Your neurosurgeon will talk with you about this risk.
- There is a small risk that you could get an infection in your brain. To reduce the risk of infection, you will be given antibiotics after your surgery.
- Your Ommaya reservoir may need to be adjusted. To make sure it is in the right place, you will get a computed tomography (CT) scan the day after your surgery. If your reservoir is not in the right place, you may need to have another surgery to fix it.
- Your Ommaya reservoir may not work. To make sure your Ommaya reservoir is working, a CSF flow study may be done after your surgery. If you need a CSF flow study, your doctor or nurse will give you more information about this.

Your neurosurgeon will explain all the possible risks and complications before your surgery.

The information in this section will help you prepare for your surgery. Read through this section when your surgery is scheduled and refer to it as your surgery date gets closer. It contains important information about what you need to do before your surgery. Write down any questions you have and be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.

Preparing for Your Surgery

You and your healthcare team will work together to prepare for your surgery.

About Drinking Alcohol

The amount of alcohol you drink can affect you during and after your surgery. It is important that you talk with your healthcare providers about your alcohol intake so that we can plan your care.

- Stopping alcohol suddenly can cause seizures, delirium, and death. If we know you are at risk for these complications, we can prescribe medication to help prevent them.
- If you drink alcohol regularly, you may be at risk for other complications during and after surgery. These include bleeding, infections, heart problems, greater dependence on nursing care, and longer hospital stay.

Here are things you can do to prevent problems before your surgery:

- Be honest with your healthcare provider about how much alcohol you drink.
- Try to stop drinking alcohol once your surgery is planned. If you develop a headache, nausea, increased anxiety, or cannot sleep after you stop drinking, tell your doctor right away. These are early signs of alcohol withdrawal and can be treated.

- Tell your healthcare provider if you cannot stop drinking. Ask us any questions you have about drinking and surgery. As always, all of your treatment information will be kept confidential.

About Smoking

People who smoke can have breathing problems when they have surgery. Stopping even for a few days before surgery can help. If you smoke, your nurse will refer you to our Tobacco Treatment Program. You can also reach the program at 212-610-0507.

Help us keep you safe during your surgery by telling us if any of the following statements apply to you, even if you aren't sure.

- I take a blood thinner. Some examples are heparin, warfarin (Coumadin®), clopidogrel (Plavix®), enoxaparin (Lovenox®), and tinzaparin (Innohep®). There are others, so be sure your doctor knows all the medications you're taking.
- I take prescription medications.
- I take any over-the-counter medications, herbs, vitamins, minerals, or natural or home remedies.
- I have a pacemaker, automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD), or other heart device.
- I have sleep apnea.
- I have had a problem with anesthesia in the past.
- I have allergies, including to latex.
- I am not willing to receive a blood transfusion.
- I drink alcohol.
- I smoke.
- I use recreational drugs.

About Sleep Apnea

Sleep apnea is a common breathing disorder that causes a person to stop breathing for short periods while sleeping. The most common type is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). This means that the airway becomes completely blocked during sleep, so no air can get through. OSA can cause serious problems when you have surgery. Please tell us if you have sleep apnea or if you think you might have it. If you use a breathing machine (such as a CPAP) for sleep apnea, bring it with you the day of your surgery.

Within **30** Days of Your Surgery

Presurgical Testing

You will have a presurgical testing appointment before your surgery. Depending on your age, your testing can take place in different locations. The date, time, and location of your PST appointment will be printed on the appointment reminder from your surgeon's office.

You can eat and take your usual medications the day of your presurgical testing appointment. During your appointment, you will meet with a nurse practitioner who works closely with anesthesiology staff (doctors and specialized nurses who give you medication to sleep during your surgery) and your surgeon.

Your nurse practitioner will review your medical and surgical history with you, including your medications, herbal supplements, and vitamins. He or she will review the details of your surgery with you and what to expect after. You will be asked to sign a consent form for your surgery. You may have tests, including an electrocardiogram (EKG) to check your heart rhythm, a chest x-ray, blood tests, and any other tests necessary to plan your care. You may also have magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or a computed tomography (CT) scan for treatment planning before your surgery. Your nurse practitioner may refer you to other healthcare providers such as a child life specialist or social worker.

Your nurse practitioner will talk with you about which medications you should take the morning of your surgery. To help you remember, we've left space for you to write these medications down in "The Morning of Your Surgery" section of this guide.

A financial counselor will also be available to meet with you and discuss any insurance issues. Please bring all of your insurance information.

Please bring the following with you to your presurgical testing appointment:

- A list of all the medications you are taking, including patches and creams.
- Results of any tests done outside of MSK, such as a cardiac stress test, echocardiogram (echo), or carotid doppler study.
- Your insurance card.
- The name(s) and telephone number(s) of your doctor(s).

Please be aware that your presurgical testing appointment may take several hours.

Parking at the PDH

The PDH is located at the main hospital.

Memorial Hospital
1275 York Avenue (between East 67th and East 68th Streets)
New York, NY 10065
Take the B elevator to the 9th floor

Parking at the main hospital is available in the garage on East 66th Street between York and First Avenues. To reach the garage, enter East 66th Street from York Avenue. The garage is located about a quarter of a block in from York Avenue, on the right-hand (north) side of the street. There is a pedestrian tunnel that goes from the garage into the hospital. If you have questions about prices, call 212-639-2338.

There are also other garages located on East 69th Street between First and Second Avenues, East 67th Street between York and First Avenues, and East 65th Street between First and Second Avenues.

Parking at PST

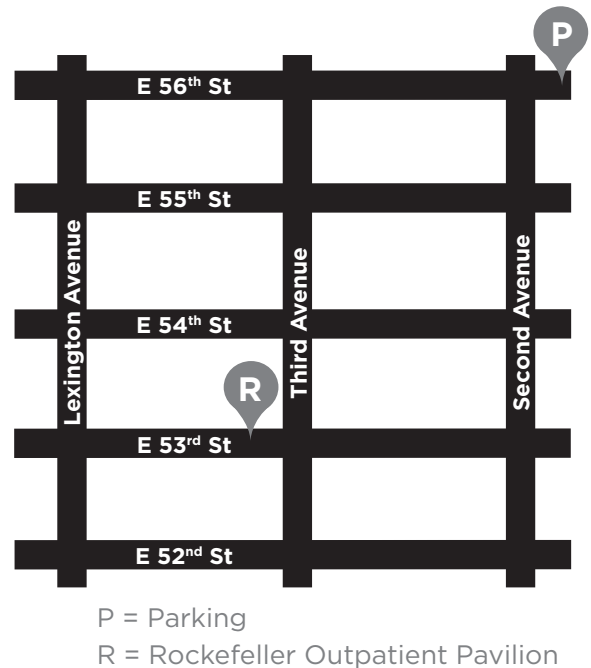
PST is located in the Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion, also known as MSK 53rd Street.

Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion
160 East 53rd Street (at Third Avenue)
New York, NY 10022

There are several options for parking during your PST appointment. The Bristol Garage offers discounts to patients. To receive the discount, have your parking ticket validated at the concierge desk in the Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion. There is a shuttle that goes from the Bristol Garage to the Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion every 20 minutes.

The Bristol Garage
300 East 56th Street (between First and Second Avenues)
New York, NY 10022

There are additional parking garages located at East 53rd Street between Second and Third Avenues and East 54th Street between Second and Third Avenues.



Housing

The Ronald McDonald House provides temporary housing for out-of-town pediatric cancer patients and their families.

MSK also has arrangements with several local hotels and housing facilities that may give you a special reduced rate. Your social worker can discuss your options and make reservations.

Tell Us if You're Sick

If you develop any illness before your surgery, call the doctor who scheduled your surgery. This includes a fever, cold, sore throat, or the flu.

10 Days Before Your Surgery

Stop Taking Certain Medications

If you take vitamin E, stop taking it 10 days before your surgery. If you take aspirin, ask your surgeon whether you should continue. Medications such as aspirin, medications that contain aspirin, and vitamin E can cause bleeding. For more information, please read *Common Medications Containing Aspirin and Other Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)*, located in this section.

7 Days Before Your Surgery

Stop Taking Herbal Remedies and Supplements

Stop taking herbal remedies or supplements 7 days before your surgery. If you take a multivitamin, talk with your doctor or nurse about whether you should continue. For more information, please read *Herbal Remedies and Cancer Treatment*, located in this section.

2 Days Before Your Surgery

Stop Taking Certain Medications

Stop taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (e.g., Advil®, Motrin®) and naproxen (e.g., Aleve®). These medications can cause bleeding. For more information, please read *Common Medications Containing Aspirin and Other Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)*, located in this section.

1 Day Before Your Surgery

Note the Time of Your Surgery

A staff member will call you after 2:00 PM the day before your surgery. He or she will tell you what time you should arrive at the hospital for your surgery. If you are scheduled for surgery on a Monday, you will be called on the Friday before. If you do not receive a call by 4:00 PM, please call 212-639-7056.

Use this area to write in your surgery information:



Use this area to write in information when the clerk calls:

Date: _____ Time: _____

- Pediatric Day Hospital (PDH)
B elevator to 9th floor
- Presurgical Center (PSC)
B elevator to 6th floor

Both locations are at 1275 York Avenue between East 67th and East 68th streets.

Shower

Unless you are given other instructions, you can shower and wash your hair.

Do not apply any hair products such as hair spray or hair gel.

Sleep

Go to bed early and get a full night's sleep.

Eating

Nothing by mouth (NPO) guidelines require that you not eat or drink anything for a certain amount of time before your surgery. This exact period of time is based on your age and any other medical problems that you may have. Your nurse practitioner will talk with you about what you can and cannot eat before surgery.

If you do not follow the NPO guidelines, your surgery may be cancelled.

Write down your NPO guidelines

The Morning of Your Surgery

Take Your Medications as Instructed

If your doctor or nurse practitioner instructed you to take certain medications the morning of your surgery, take only those medications with a sip of water. **Do not take any medications 2 hours before your surgery.**



Do not eat or drink anything the morning of your surgery. This includes water, hard candy, and gum. Take any medication as instructed with a sip of water.

Write down which medications you should take the morning of your surgery

Medication	Dose	Doctor/Nurse
Medication	Dose	Doctor/Nurse
Medication	Dose	Doctor/Nurse
Medication	Dose	Doctor/Nurse

Things to Remember

- Wear loose clothing
- Do not put on any lotions, creams, deodorants, makeup, powders, or perfumes.
- Do not wear any metal objects. Remove all jewelry, including body piercings. The equipment used during your surgery can cause burns if it touches metal.
- Leave valuables, such as credit cards, jewelry, or your checkbook at home.
- Before you are taken into the operating room, you will need to remove your eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, prosthetic device(s), wig, and religious articles, such as a rosary.
- If you wear contact lenses, wear your glasses instead.
- _____
- _____



What to Bring

- Only the money you may need for a newspaper, bus, taxi, or parking.
- Your portable music player, if you choose. However, someone will need to hold this item for you when you go into surgery.
- Your incentive spirometer, if you have one.
- Your breathing machine for sleep apnea (such as your CPAP), if you have one.
- If you have a case for your personal items, such as eyeglasses, hearing aid(s), dentures, prosthetic device(s), wig, and religious articles such as a rosary, bring it with you.
- Your Health Care Proxy form, if you have completed one.
- This guide. Your healthcare team will use this guide to teach you how to care for yourself after your surgery.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Parking When You Arrive

Parking at MSK is available in the garage on East 66th Street between York and First Avenues. To reach the garage, turn onto East 66th Street from York Avenue. The garage is located about a quarter of a block in from York Avenue, on the right-hand (north) side of the street. There is a pedestrian tunnel that you can walk through that connects the garage to the hospital. If you have questions about prices, call 212- 639-2338.

There are also other garages located on East 69th Street between First and Second Avenues, East 67th Street between York and First Avenues, and East 65th Street between First and Second Avenues.



P = Parking
M = Memorial Sloan Kettering

Once You're in the Hospital

Tell Us Who You Are

You will be asked to state and spell your name and date of birth many times. This is for your safety. People with the same or similar names may be having surgery on the same day.

Get Dressed for Surgery

You will be given a hospital gown, robe, and nonskid socks.

Meet With Your Nurse

Your nurse will meet with you before your surgery. Tell him or her the dose of any medications (including patches and creams) you took after midnight and the time you took them.

Meet With Your Anesthesiologist

He or she will:

- Review your medical history with you.
- Talk with you about your comfort and safety during your surgery.
- Talk with you about the kind of anesthesia you will receive.
- Answer any questions you may have about your anesthesia.

Tell your anesthesiologist if you or any of your family members have ever had a problem with anesthesia.

Prepare for Surgery

When it is time for your surgery, your family members will be shown to the waiting area. Your visitors should read *Information for Family and Friends for the Day of Surgery* located in this section.

Before you enter the operating room (OR), you will be brought into the OR holding area. A family member can be with you at all times. You will be greeted by a nurse who will make sure that you are comfortable. You will also see your surgeon in the OR holding area. He or she will be able to answer any last minute questions you may have.

You will then be brought into the operating room.

During your surgery, you will receive medication through your IV, MediPort[®], or central line. The medication will make you feel drowsy and control your pain. You will not feel any pain during your surgery.

Common Medications Containing Aspirin and Other Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

This information will help you identify medications that contain aspirin and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). It's important to stop these medications before many cancer treatments.

Medications such as aspirin and other NSAIDs, vitamin E, and COX-2 inhibitors can increase your risk of bleeding during cancer treatment. These medications affect your platelets, which are blood cells that clot to prevent bleeding. If you take aspirin or other NSAIDs, vitamin E, or a COX-2 inhibitor such as celecoxib (Celebrex[®]), tell your doctor or nurse. He or she will tell you if you need to stop taking these medications before your treatment. You will also find instructions in the information about the treatment you're having.

If you're having surgery:

- Stop taking medications that contain aspirin or vitamin E 10 days before your surgery or as directed by your doctor. If you take aspirin because you've had a problem with your heart or you've had a stroke, be sure to talk with your doctor before you stop taking it.
- Stop taking NSAIDs 48 hours before your surgery or as directed by your doctor.
- Ask your doctor if you should continue taking a COX-2 inhibitor.

If you're having a procedure in Radiology (including Interventional Radiology, Interventional Mammography, and General Radiology):

- If you take aspirin because you've had a problem with your heart or you've had a stroke, be sure to talk with your doctor before you stop taking it. If your doctor instructs you to stop taking aspirin, you should stop 5 days before your procedure or as directed by your doctor.
- Stop taking NSAIDs 24 hours before your procedure.
- Stop taking medications that contain vitamin E 10 days before your procedure, or as directed by your doctor.

Chemotherapy can decrease your platelet count, which can increase your risk of bleeding. Whether you're just starting chemotherapy or you've been receiving it, talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin or NSAIDs.

Medications are often called by their brand name, which can make it difficult to know their ingredients. To help you identify medications that contain aspirin, other NSAIDs, and vitamin E, please review the list of common medications in this leaflet. While this list includes the most common products, there are others. Please check with your healthcare provider if you aren't sure. Always be sure your doctor knows all the medications you're taking, both prescription and over-the-counter.

The following common medications contain aspirin:

Alka Seltzer®	Cama® Arthritis Pain Reliever	Genprin®	Roxiprin®
Anacin®	COPE®	Gensan®	Saleto®
Arthritis Pain Formula	Dasin®	Heartline®	Salocol®
Arthritis Foundation Pain Reliever®	Easprin®	Headrin®	Sodol®
ASA Enseals®	Ecotrin (most formulations)	Isollyl®	Soma® Compound Tablets
ASA Suppositories®	Empirin® Aspirin (most formulations)	Lanorinal®	Soma Compound with Codeine Tablets
Ascriptin® and Ascriptin A/D	Epromate®	Lortab® ASA Tablets	St. Joseph® Adult Chewable Aspirin
Aspergum®	Equagesic Tablets	Magnaprin®	Supac®
Asprimox®	Equazine®	Marnal®	Synalgos® DC Capsules
Axotal®	Excedrin® Extra-Strength Analgesic Tablets and Caplets	Micrainin®	Tenol-Plus®
Azdone®	Excedrin Migraine	Momentum®	Trigesic®
Bayer® (most formulations)	Fiorgen®	Norgesic Forte® (most formulations)	Talwin® Compound
BC® Powder and Cold Formulations	Fiorinal®	Norwich® Aspirin	Vanquish® Analgesic Caplets
Bufferin®	Fiorinal® (most formulations)	PAC® Analgesic Tablets	Wesprin® Buffered
Bufferin® (most formulations)	Fiortal®	Orphengesic®	Zee-Seltzer®
Buffets II®	Gelpirin®	Painaid®	ZORprin®
Buffex®		Panasal®	
		Percodan® Tablets	
		Persistin®	
		Robaxisal® Tablets	

The following common medications are NSAIDs that do not contain aspirin:

Advil®	Children's Motrin®	Indomethacin	Mobic®	Piroxicam
Advil Migraine	Clinoril®	Indocin®	Motrin	Ponstel®
Aleve®	Daypro®	Ketoprofen	Nabumetone	Relafen®
Anaprox DS®	Diclofenac	Ketorolac	Nalfon®	Saleto 200
Ansaid®	Etodolac®	Lodine®	Naproxen	Sulindac
Arthrotec®	Feldene®	Meclofenamate	Naprosyn®	Toradol®
Bayer Select Pain Relief Formula Caplets	Fenoprofen	Mefenamic Acid	Nuprin®	Voltaren®
Celebrex	Flurbiprofen	Meloxicam	Orudis®	
	Genpril®	Menadol®	Oxaprozin	
	Ibuprofen	Midol®	PediaCare Fever®	

Most multivitamins contain vitamin E, so if you take a multivitamin be sure to check the label. The following products contain vitamin E:

Amino-Opt-E	Aquavit	E-400 IU	E complex-600
Aquasol E	D'alpha E	E-1000 IU Softgels	Vita-Plus E

Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is generally safe to take during your cancer treatment. It doesn't affect platelets, so it will not increase your chance of

bleeding. The following common medications contain acetaminophen; those in bold require a prescription:

Acephen®	Datril®	Norco®	Tylenol with
Aceta® with Codeine	Di-Gesic®	Panadol®	Codeine No. 3
Acetaminophen	Esgic®	Percocet®	Vanquish
with Codeine	Excedrin P.M.	Repan	Vicodin®
Aspirin-Free Anacin	Fiorcet®	Roxicet®	Wygesic®
Arthritis Pain Formula	Lorcet®	Talacen®	Zydone®
Aspirin-Free	Lortab	Tempra®	
Darvocet-N 100®	Naldegasic®	Tylenol	

 **Read the labels on all your medications.**

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a very common ingredient found in over-the-counter and prescription medications. It's often an ingredient in pain relievers, fever reducers, sleep aids, and cough, cold, and allergy medications. The full name acetaminophen is not always written out, so look for these common abbreviations, especially on prescription pain relievers: APAP, AC, Acetaminoph, Acetaminop, Acetamin, and Acetam.

Acetaminophen is safe when used as directed, but there is a limit to how much you can take in 1 day. It's possible to take too much acetaminophen without knowing because it's in many different medications, so always read and follow the label on the product you are taking. Do not take more than 1 medication at a time that contains acetaminophen without talking with a member of your healthcare team.

Herbal Remedies and Cancer Treatment

One week before you have surgery or start chemotherapy or radiation therapy, you must stop taking any herbal or botanical home remedies or other dietary supplements because they can:

- Interact with your other medications.
- Increase or lower your blood pressure.
- Thin your blood and increase your risk of bleeding.
- Make radiation therapy less effective.
- Lower the effects of medications that weaken the immune system.
- Increase the effects of sedation or anesthesia (medications to make you sleepy).

Common Herbs and Their Effects

Echinacea

- Can cause an allergic reaction, such as a rash or difficulty breathing.
- Can lower the effect of medications used to weaken the immune system.

Garlic

- Can lower your blood pressure, fat, and cholesterol levels.
- Can increase your risk of bleeding.

Ginkgo (also known as *Ginkgo biloba*)

- Can increase your risk of bleeding.

Ginseng

- Can act as a stimulant, which can decrease the effects of anesthesia or

sedation (medications to make you sleepy).

- Can increase your risk of bleeding.
- Can lower your blood glucose (sugar) level.

Turmeric

- Can make chemotherapy less effective.

St. John's Wort

- Can interact with medications given during surgery.
- Can make your skin more sensitive to radiation or laser treatment.

Valerian

- Can increase the effects of anesthesia or sedation (medications to make you sleepy).

Herbal formulas

- Many herbal formulas contain different herbs. We don't know their side effects. You must also stop taking these products 1 week before and during treatment.

For more information about herbs and botanicals, visit the About Herbs, Botanicals & Other Products website at [mskcc.org/about/herbs](https://www.mskcc.org/about/herbs).

You can also download the Memorial Sloan Kettering About Herbs app from the Apple App Store at itunes.apple.com/us/app/about-herbs/id554267162?mt=8.

This information does not cover all possible side effects. Please share any questions or concerns with your healthcare provider.

Information for Family and Friends for the Day of Surgery

This information explains what to expect on the day your friend or family member is having surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK).

Before the Surgery

After arriving at the hospital, the patient will be asked to provide contact information for the person who will be meeting with the surgeon after the surgery. This is the same person who will get updates from the nurse liaison during the surgery. If the patient is having an outpatient procedure, he or she will also be asked to provide contact information for the person who will be taking them home.

Once the patient is checked in, he or she will go to the Presurgical Center (PSC) to be examined before surgery. One person can come along, but other visitors should wait in the waiting area. If the patient wishes, other visitors may join him or her when the nurse has finished the exam.

When the operating room (OR) is ready, the surgical team will take the patient there. They will prepare the patient for surgery, which can take 15 to 90 minutes. Then, the surgery will begin.

Please remember the following:

- Do not bring food or drinks into the waiting area or the PSC. Patients are not allowed to eat before their surgery or procedure.
- Our patients are at high risk for infection. Please do not visit if you have any cold or flu symptoms (fever, sneezing, sniffles, or a cough). We may ask you to wear a mask if there are any concerns about your health.
- If the patient brought any valuables, such as a cell phone, iPod, iPad, etc., please keep them safe for him or her during surgery.

- Sometimes, surgeries are delayed. We make every effort to tell you when this happens.

During the Surgery

After the patient is taken to the OR, please wait in the main lobby on the 1st floor. While you are waiting, here are some things you can do:

- Food and drinks are available on the 1st floor in the cafeteria and in the gift shop. You can also bring your own food and eat it in the cafeteria.
- The coat-check room is located at the bottom of the escalator on the ground level. It is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- Wireless Internet access is available in most areas of the hospital. You can also use the computers in the rooms off the main lobby.
- Please be courteous and mindful of others while using your cell phone. Use the designated area to accept and make calls on your cell phone. It may be useful to bring your phone charger to the hospital.
- The Mary French Rockefeller All Faith Chapel is an interfaith chapel located in room M106 near the main lobby on the 1st floor. It is open at all times for meditation and prayer.
- The Patient Recreation Pavilion is open daily from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM for patients and their visitors. Children are allowed in the pavilion as long as they are supervised by an adult. Arts and crafts, a library, an outdoor terrace, and scheduled entertainment events are available in this area. To get to the pavilion, take the M elevators to the 15th floor.

Surgery updates

A nurse liaison will keep you updated on the progress of surgery. He or she will:

- Give you information about the patient.
- Prepare you for your meeting with the surgeon.
- Prepare you for visiting the patient in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

To contact the nurse liaison:

- From inside the hospital, use a hospital courtesy phone. Dial 2000 and ask for beeper 9000. Please be patient; this can take up to 2 minutes.
- From outside of the hospital, call 212-639-2000. Ask for beeper 9000.
- You can also ask the information desk staff to contact the nurse liaison for you.

After the Surgery

Meeting with the surgeon

When the patient's surgery is completed, we will call you and ask you to return to the concierge desk to tell you where to go to meet with the surgeon.

After you have met with the surgeon, return to the concierge desk and tell them that you have finished your consultation.

Visiting the patient in the PACU

After surgery, the patient will be taken to the PACU. It can take up to 90 minutes before the patient is ready to have visitors. You can use this time to take a walk or just relax in the waiting area until the patient is ready to see you.

When the patient is able to have visitors, a staff member will take you to the PACU. Please remember that only a limited number of visitors can go into the PACU. This is to keep the area quiet and avoid overcrowding. The patients in the PACU need time for rest and nursing care after surgery.

While visiting in the PACU

- Silence your cell phone.
- Apply an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (such as Purell®) before entering. There are hand sanitizer stations located throughout the hospital.
- Speak quietly.
- Respect other patients' privacy by staying at the bedside of your friend or family member.
- Do not bring food or flowers into the PACU.
- If any PACU patient needs special nursing attention, we may ask you to leave or to delay your visit.

After your visit, the nurse will escort you back from the PACU. He or she will update you on the patient's condition. He or she will also explain the plan of care for the patient, such as whether the patient is staying overnight and when he or she will be moved to an inpatient room. If the patient is going home the same day, a responsible adult must take him or her home.

We will give you a card with the PACU phone number. Please appoint one person to call for updates.

The information in this section will tell you what to expect after your surgery, both during your hospital stay and after you leave the hospital. You will learn how to safely recover from your surgery. Write down any questions you have and be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.

What to Expect

When you wake up after your surgery, you will be taken to the Post Anesthesia Recovery Unit (PACU). You may have a special mask over your face with air coming out, which will help you wake up after surgery. You will be attached to machines that monitor your vital signs (body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and oxygen level). It is normal to feel tired after surgery. Your PACU nurse will make sure you are comfortable and answer all of your questions. As soon as you are settled in the PACU, a nurse will bring your family members in to be with you.

Once your anesthesia has worn off, you will be taken to your hospital room. Depending on your age and condition, you may be taken to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), the Adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU), or the Neurology Observation Unit (NOU) for close observation and monitoring. After 24 hours, you will most likely be taken to the pediatric or neurology floor for continued care.

You may have a dressing over your incisions. Your doctor will take this off 24 hours after your surgery. Your incision will be left uncovered.

You will be asked to move your arms, fingers, toes and legs. Your nurse will check your pupils with a flashlight and ask questions such as “What is your name?”

Commonly Asked Questions

Will I have pain after my surgery?

You may have a mild headache or feel discomfort from your incision lines for the first few days after your surgery. Your nurse will give you pain medication. Please tell your nurse if the medication is not helping your pain.

How long will I be in the hospital?

Most people are in the hospital for 1 night after having an Ommaya reservoir placed but this will depend on how fast you recover.

Can family and friends visit me in the hospital?

Your parents, family members, and friends are welcome to visit you during your hospital stay as long as they are in good health. No one with any signs of sickness, such as fever, cough, congestion, sore throat, or rash, is allowed to visit.

Since visiting hours may vary depending on where you will be staying, please check with your nurse regarding the visitation policy. Visitors on the Pediatric Unit are limited to parents, legal guardians, or spouses, and 2 other visitors per day.

Parents, legal guardians, or spouses can call the inpatient unit at any time. Ask your nurse for the phone number. Because of privacy concerns, staff will only give information to parents, legal guardians, or spouses.

Please tell friends and other relatives not to call the inpatient unit for information.

Will I be able to eat and drink?

You will be allowed to drink fluids a few hours after your surgery. Your diet will advance with each meal.

When will my stitches be removed?

The stitches on your scalp will be removed 7 to 14 days after your surgery.

How do I care for my incision?

Mild swelling around the incision is normal. As your incision heals, it may burn, itch, or feel numb.

Do not apply any creams, ointments, hair products, or use a hair dryer on your incisions until they are completely healed. This may take about 6 weeks.

Once your incision is healed, it does not need to be covered. However, you should protect it from the sun by wearing a hat or scarf and using sunblock.

When can I shower?

You can shower 5 days after your surgery. When you wash your hair, use a gentle shampoo, such as baby shampoo.

Do not let your incision soak in water. Avoid baths, hot tubs, and swimming pools for at least 2 weeks after your surgery.

When can I go back to work?

Your doctor will tell you when you can go back to work. This depends on your age, type of work, medical condition, and other factors.

When can I go back to school?

You can go back to school as soon as you feel ready. Tell your school nurse that you have an Ommaya reservoir.

Are there any restrictions on my activities with an Ommaya reservoir?

You will not be able to participate in gym class or play contact sports (i.e., football, boxing, wrestling) for at least 2 weeks after your Ommaya reservoir is placed. Some people may need to wait 6 weeks or longer. This gives you scar time to heal. Talk with your doctor about how long you need to wait.

When your doctor tells you that you can participate in gym class and play contact sports, remember to wear a helmet, if needed. This reduces your risk of getting a head injury.

When can I swim?

Do not swim for at least 2 weeks after your surgery. If your incisions need more time to heal, you may need to wait longer. Your neurosurgeon or nurse practitioner will tell you when it's okay to swim at your first follow-up appointment after your surgery.

When can I travel?

Do not travel on an airplane until your neurosurgeon says it's okay.

When is my first appointment after my surgery?

Your first appointment after surgery will be in 7 to 14 days after you leave the hospital. Contact your neurosurgeon's office to schedule your appointment before you leave the hospital. Depending on how you are healing, some or all of your stitches will be removed during this appointment.

Will I need any more tests?

You will have a computed tomography (CT) scan within 24 hours after your surgery to make sure your Ommaya reservoir is in the right place.

How do I care for my Ommaya reservoir?

Your Ommaya reservoir does not need special care. You can wash your hair as usual.

Can the Ommaya reservoir be removed?

The reservoir is usually not removed unless you have complications with it.

What if I have other questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with your doctor or nurse. You can reach them Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Call the office directly 212-639-7056.

Doctor: _____ Telephone: _____

Nurse: _____ Telephone: _____

After 5:00 PM, during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000 and ask for the the pediatric neurosurgery fellow on call.



Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- Tenderness, redness, or swelling around your reservoir
- Clear, bloody, or pus-like discharge from your reservoir
- A temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Headaches
- Vomiting
- Neck stiffness
- Blurry vision
- Confusion

This section contains a list of MSK support services, as well as the resources that were referred to throughout this guide. These resources will help you prepare for your surgery and recover safely. Write down any questions you have and be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.

MSK Resources

Admitting Office

212-639-5014

Call to discuss private room or luxury suite options. If you want to change your room choice after your PST visit, call 212-639-7873 or 212-639-7874.

Anesthesia

212-639-6840

Call with any questions about anesthesia.

Blood Donor Room

212- 639-7643

Call for more information if you are interested in donating blood or platelets.

Bobst International Center

888-675-7722

MSK welcomes patients from around the world. If you are an international patient, call for help coordinating your care.

Chaplaincy Service

212-639-5982

At MSK, our chaplains are available to listen, help support family members, pray, contact community clergy or faith groups, or simply be a comforting companion and a spiritual presence. Anyone can request spiritual support, regardless of formal religious affiliation. The interfaith chapel is located near the main lobby of Memorial Hospital, and is open 24 hours a day. If you have an emergency, please call the hospital operator and ask for the chaplain on call.

Counseling Center

646-888-0200

Many people find counseling helpful. We provide counseling for individuals, couples, families, and groups, as well as medications to help if you feel anxious or depressed.

Integrative Medicine Service

646-888-0800

Offers patients many services to complement traditional medical care, including music therapy, mind/body therapies, dance and movement therapy, yoga, and touch therapy.

Look Good Feel Better Program

800-227-2345

Learn techniques to help you feel better about your appearance by taking a workshop or visiting the program online at www.lookgoodfeelbetter.org.

Patient-to-Patient Support Program

212-639-5007

You may find it comforting to speak with a cancer survivor or caregiver who has been through a similar treatment. Through our Patient-to-Patient Support Program, we are able to offer you a chance to speak with former patients and caregivers.

Patient Billing

646-227-3378

Call Patient Billing with any questions regarding preauthorization with your insurance company. This is also called preapproval.

Patient Representative Office

212-639-7202

Call if you have any questions about the Health Care Proxy form or if you have any concerns about your care.

Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist

212-639-5935

Call if you have any questions about MSK releasing any information while you are having surgery.

Private Duty Nursing Office

212-639-6892

Patients may request private nurses or companions. Call for more information.

Resources for Life After Cancer (RLAC) Program

646-888-8106

At MSK, care doesn't end after active treatment. The RLAC Program is for patients and their families who have finished treatment. This program has many services, including seminars, workshops, support groups, counseling on life after treatment, and help with insurance and employment issues.

Social Work

212-639-7020

Social workers help patients, family, and friends deal with issues that are common for cancer patients. They provide individual counseling and support groups throughout the course of treatment, and can help you communicate with children and other family members. Our social workers can also help referring you to community agencies and programs, as well as financial resources if you're eligible.

Tobacco Treatment Program

212-610-0507

If you want to quit smoking, MSK has specialists who can help. Call for more information.

For additional online information, visit LIBGUIDES on MSK's library website at <http://library.mskcc.org>. You can also contact the library reference staff at 212-639-7439 for help.

External Resources

Access-A-Ride

www.mta.info/nyct/paratran/guide.htm

877-337-2017

In New York City, the MTA offers a shared ride, door-to-door service for people with disabilities who are unable to take the public bus or subway.

Air Charity Network

www.aircharitynetwork.org

877-621-7177

Provides travel to treatment centers.

American Cancer Society (ACS)

www.cancer.org

800-227-2345

Offers a variety of information and services, including Hope Lodge, a free place for patients and caregivers to stay during cancer treatment.

Cancer and Careers

www.cancerandcareers.org

A comprehensive resource for education, tools, and events for employees with cancer.

CancerCare

www.cancercare.org

800-813-4673

275 Seventh Avenue (between West 25th & West 26th Streets) New York, NY 10001

Provides counseling, support groups, educational workshops, publications, and financial assistance.

Cancer Support Community

<http://cancersupportcommunity.org>

Provides support and education to people affected by cancer.

Caregiver Action Network

www.caregiveraction.org

800-896-3650

Provides education and support for those who care for loved ones with a chronic illness or disability.

Chronic Disease Fund

www.cdfund.org

877-968-7233

Offers financial assistance to pay for copayments during treatment. Patients must have medical insurance, meet the income criteria, and be prescribed medication that is part of the CDF formulary.

Corporate Angel Network

www.corpangelnetwork.org

866-328-1313

Free travel to treatment across the country using empty seats on corporate jets.

fertileHOPE

www.fertilehope.org

855-220-7777

Provides reproductive information and support to cancer patients and survivors whose medical treatments have risks associated with infertility.

Gilda's Club

www.gildasclubnyc.org

212-647-9700

A place where men, women, and children living with cancer find social and emotional support through networking, workshops, lectures, and social activities.

Healthwell Foundation

www.healthwellfoundation.org

800-675-8416

Provides financial assistance to cover copayments, health care premiums, and deductibles for certain medications and therapies.

Hospital Hosts

www.hospitalhosts.com

National resource to help reduce costs related to medical travel needs such as air, car, and lodging near hospitals.

Joe's House

www.joeshouse.org

877-563-7468

Provides a list of places to stay near treatment centers for people with cancer and their families.

LGBT Cancer Project

<http://lgbtcancer.com>

Provides support and advocacy for the LGBT community, including a online support groups and a database of LGBT friendly clinical trials.

National Cancer Institute

www.cancer.gov

National Cancer Legal Services Network

www.nclsn.org

Free cancer legal advocacy program.

National LGBT Cancer Network

www.cancer-network.org

Provides education, training, and advocacy for LGBT cancer survivors and those at risk.

Needy Meds

www.needymeds.com

Lists Patient Assistance Programs for brand and generic name medications.

NyRx

www.nyrxplan.com

Provides prescription benefits to eligible employees and retirees of public sector employers in New York State.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

www.pparx.org

888-477-2669

Helps qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get free or low-cost medications.

Patient Access Network Foundation

www.panfoundation.org

866-316-7263

Provides assistance with copayments for patients with insurance.

Patient Advocate Foundation

www.patientadvocate.org

800-532-5274

Provides access to care, financial assistance, insurance assistance, job retention assistance, and access to the national underinsured resource directory.

RxHope

www.rxhope.com

877-267-0517

Provides assistance to help people obtain medications that they have trouble affording.