



Cranial Disorders

- Tumours, Cysts, abscess or blood clots that cause mass effect and midline shift require urgent review and therefore a phone call to the registrar would be appropriate. Such conditions are likely to be associated with headache/nausea/vomiting and alteration of sensorium.
- Vascular – ruptured aneurysms/ Arterio-venous malformations (AVM) are an emergency. They classically present with thunderclap headache and associated nausea/vomiting/photophobia+/- neurological deficits. Unruptured aneurysms do need evaluation to assess need for intervention. AVM could present with seizures, and will require assessment sub acutely for type of intervention.

Information Required

- Presence of red flags
- Duration of symptoms
- Document focal Neurology
- Current medication (including anticoagulation)
- Previous relevant history
- Treatment /tests to date

Investigations Required

- CT brain with contrast
- MRI if available
- CTA if considering Aneurysm/AVM
- Blood test: FBE ELU COAGS LFT ESR
- Hormone levels & visual field testing if suspected pituitary tumour
- Audiology testing if acoustic neuroma suspected

Fax Referrals to

- Neurosurgery Clinic Fax: 8204 4059

Red Flags

- Malignancy elsewhere
- Seizure
- Neurofibromatosis
- Progressive Neurological deficits
- Cognitive or behavioral disturbance
- Headaches associated with
 - Vomiting
 - Visual symptoms
 - Neurological deficits
 - Papilloedema

Suggested GP Management

Discuss the patient with Neurosurgery Registrar on call via FMC switchboard **8204 5511** and the need to consider the following interventions

History & Examination

- Presence and duration of neurological signs & symptoms ie nuchal rigidity
- History of bleeding coagulopathy

Cranial Tumour

- Urgent transfer to FMC
- Seizure prophylaxis
- Steroid commencement (with PPI)
- Analgesia

Vascular

- Urgent transfer to FMC
- Analgesia (with caution)
- CTA

Clinical Resources

- National prescribing service for recommended staging of analgesia <http://www.nps.org.au/>
- Neurosurgical Society of Australasia www.nsa.org.au

Patient Information

- www.neurosurgery.com.au

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1	Oct 2014	Oct 2016	

