



**CLINICAL PATHWAY:**  
**Suspected Neurosurgical Shunt Infection**  
**Appendix A: Obtaining a Detailed History and Physical**

THIS PATHWAY  
SERVES AS A GUIDE  
AND DOES NOT  
REPLACE CLINICAL  
JUDGMENT.

Important factors to consider include:

- **Shunt Type:**
  - ventricular-atrial shunt
  - ventricular-plural shunt
  - ventricular-peritoneal shunt
- **Headache History:**
  - location
  - quality
  - duration
  - treatment
- **Vomiting History:**
  - timing
  - any precipitating events
- **Neurological symptoms:**
  - change in LOC
  - ↑ irritability
  - weakness
  - seizures
  - up/downward gaze
  - ↑ lethargy
- **Abdominal symptoms:**
  - significant ↑ abdominal girth
  - pain
  - tenderness
  - mass
- **General:**
  - trauma
  - fontanel
  - head circumference
  - ↓ breath sounds for pleural shunts

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