

Basic Information:

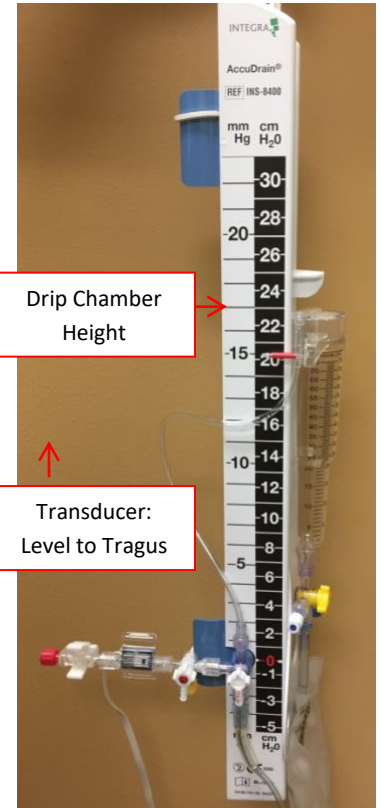
An **external ventricular drain (EVD)** is a catheter inserted into the lateral ventricle that allows measurement of the pressure in the ventricles to monitor ICP and facilitates removal and/or sampling of CSF.

Elevations in ICP are controlled by removal of CSF by gravity drainage and by adjusting the height of the drip chamber relative to the patient's reference point (usually tragus of the ear).

- Transducer should be level with tragus of the ear/foramen of Monro (usually).
- Raising the system decreases drainage, whereas lowering the system increases drainage.

Care and Management

- Make sure EVD transducer is level with tragus with every position change
- Clamp drain (turn stopcock off toward drain, open toward monitor) when repositioning or when activities are performed (turns, x-rays, road trips)
- To assess ICP: turn stopcock off toward drain, open to transducer.
- To empty CSF: turn stop-cock off to prevent drainage and empty CSF from drip chamber into bag by turning yellow stopcock
- Prevent infection: Use strict aseptic technique when zeroing the transducer
- Check for air in the tubing, leaks, or disconnections.



For more assistance, contact neurosurgery resident/attending. You may also call the Neuro Charge RN.

Neuro Resident: 303-266-2353

Neuro ICU Charge: 83590