

Craniosynostosis Surgical Options: Benefits and Responsibilities

Endoscopic Strip Craniectomy

Benefits	Risks and Responsibilities
Less invasive surgery Shorter surgery (typically 2-3 hours) Typically lower blood transfusion rate (30% to 40%) Smaller scars	Helmet Maintenance of 23hr daily helmet for 8 to 12 months Daily cleaning of helmet and baby head
Faster Healing Overnight hospital stay after surgery Incisions are smaller	Wound treatment Keep the stitches clean and moist (soap and water washes and vaseline) To prevent scarring you need to pick at the scabs Once healed, when removing helmet apply sunscreen and use hats to avoid sun burn
Future treatment Continued follow-up yearly until age 8 to 12 years to assess shape and remote chance of increased pressure	More Checkups In-person check-ups every 6 weeks Multiple helmet fittings and helmets (2 to 4) as the head grows

Cranial Vault Reshaping

Benefits	Risks and Responsibilities
Immediate Change in Skull shape Shape usually does not change after surgery No helmet	More invasive surgery Longer surgery (typically 4-6 hours) Higher chance of blood transfusion (75%) Longer scar Longer hospital stay (3 to 5 days) Lots of swelling (especially eyes)
Less Checkups Post-operative follow-up at 1 week, 1 month and 1 year Continued follow-up yearly until age 8 to 12 years to assess shape and remote chance of increased pressure	Wound treatment Keep the stitches clean and moist (soap and water washes and vaseline) To prevent scarring you need to pick at the scabs Once healed, when removing helmet apply sunscreen and use hats to avoid sun burn
	Potential future surgeries May need narrowing of the scar or smoothing of any bone irregularities