

SEPTEMBER IS CHIARI AWARENESS MONTH

Second Opinions Will Likely Tell You Something Different

A recent study that received a lot of attention in the media found that for any medical condition, someone who seeks a second opinion will be told something different almost 90% of the time. It is no different in the Chiari world. Surveys of clinicians which posed hypothetical cases have found a significant amount of disagreement on when to recommend surgery, how surgery is implemented, and what restrictions patients should have after surgery. This doesn't necessarily even factor in the all too many people who are told their headaches are not likely due to their small herniation, it's just something they were born with, and what to do about residual problems after surgery. What this means for patients is that if you decide to get a second (or third, fourth, etc.) opinion, you need to be ready to hear different things, because you most likely will. For some, the confusion of multiple opinions can cause even more stress during a difficult time. For others, it is exactly what they want; namely, to seek out the various views and assess all their options. Navigating the Chiari experience for yourself, or for your child, is a very personal experience, and in the end only you can decide what is the best approach.