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Hospital Readmissions After Chiari Surgery Are Common

The same study that looked at the costs of Chiari surgery also utilized the state wide databases in New York , Florida, and California to look at the complication and readmission rates for adults in those states. Surgical complications were considered to be directly related to operative intervention, such as wound infection or disruption; bleeding complication; dural graft complication; meningitis, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)-related complication (eg, pseudomeningocele, shunt insertion or revision); cerebrovascular infarct or hemorrhage, or other nervous system complications. Medical complications were considered events associated with the hospitalization, such as respiratory problems, pneumonia, etc. Within 90 days of surgery, more than 18% of patients experienced surgical complications and 5% had medical complications. The 90 day readmission rate was a surprising 22%. As expected, common surgical complications were CSF leaks, pseudomeningocele, wound infection, shunt issues, and meningitis. The study did not report the specific reasons for hospital readmissions.

SOURCE: *Complications and Resource Use Associated With Surgery for Chiari Malformation Type 1 in Adults: A Population Perspective. Greenberg JK, Ladner TR, Olsen MA, Shannon CN, Liu J, Yarbrough CK, Piccirillo JF, Wellons JC 3rd, Smyth MD, Park TS, Limbrick DD. Neurosurgery. 2015 Aug;77(2):261-8*

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