

Division of Pediatric General Surgery

## Brachial Cleft Cyst or Sinus



Dr Monja Proctor

Brachial cleft cyst is a persistent remnant of the formation of head and neck structures. These lesions present as a dimple – sometimes with drainage- or a lump in the neck. They tend to present in specific parts of the neck depending on the type. Branchial Cleft Cysts tend to become infected so excision is recommended. If your child has an infected cyst it is treated with antibiotics, warm compresses and occasionally the cyst needs to be opened.



Dr Edwin Hatch

### What can my child eat after surgery?

Start with clear fluids – apple juice, jello, water, popsicles- and advance to regular diet. Your child may prefer soft foods like puddings for several days.



Dr John Lawrence

### Will there be any pain?

Acetaminophen – Tylenol 15 mg/kg – is recommended for discomfort every four to six hours as needed. This begins after clear fluids have been tolerated.

### Are there any activity restrictions?

On the day of the surgery activity should be limited until all anesthetic effects have resolved. Your child should be supervised until this occurs – assisted up and down stairs, to the restroom, etc.



Dr Robert Weinsheimer

### What will the incision look like?

There will be an incision on the side of the neck over the lump or sinus. There may be more than one incision. Incisions are closed with dissolving stitches and covered by “Superglue” or “steristrips” (small white tapes). These tapes should fall off on their own in about a week. If not, remove them after ten days. Once the tapes are off, you may see 2 ends of a stitch – looks like clear fishing line – exiting from the skin. You may clip these ends off level with the skin using small scissors. Or you may wait several weeks and the ends will fall off on their own.

### When can bathing begin?

Two days after the operation it is okay to sponge bathe or shower. Try not to soak the white tapes. If they get wet, just pat them dry. Full bathing and swimming is allowed after one week.

### Follow-up?

An appointment can be made for 1 to 2 weeks after surgery. Please call the Pediatric surgery office at 206-215-2700.

***If there is any sign of infection, drainage, pain, redness or swelling around the incision, please call the Pediatric surgery office at 206-215-2700.***

