After a craniotomy, all patients go to the Neuro Intensive Care Unit, called the NCU, overnight, where nurses with sophisticated equipment watch over you very carefully so you can be treated immediately if your recovery is not normal. Problems are rare, and your health care team does everything possible to assure the best outcome for you.

**In the Neuro ICU**

*Visitors.* While you are in the ICU you will be able to have visitors for short visits at certain times. Your nurse will tell you the times.

*MRI.* The morning after surgery, most patients have another MRI. The doctor will use this picture of your brain taken immediately after surgery to compare with MRIs that you may have in the future to see if your tumor has returned.

*Catheters.* While you in the NCU you will probably have several IVs as well as a catheter in your bladder to drain urine. You will be given strong pain medicine through your IV, and you will probably be very sleepy. Most of the IV’s will be removed the morning after surgery, and you will be moved to a regular hospital room in the Neuro Care Unit.

**On the Neuro Care Unit**

You will be able to eat regular food. The catheter in your bladder will be removed as soon as you are able to get up and move around your room in the Neuro Care Unit. It is very important that you get up and walk the day after surgery to prevent infection in your lungs or bladder or a blood clot in your legs. Most people do not have a lot of pain after brain surgery. However, if you have pain, talk with your nurse about it, and you will be able to have pain pills. You must be able to control your pain with pills before you can go home.

*Visitors.* Family and friends can visit frequently or even stay with you. Please ask your nurse about the rules for visitors. They are meant to protect patients and assure the comfort of both patients and visitors.

**At home**

When you go home it is still important for you to get up and walk around at least every two hours while you are awake to prevent infection and blood clots. You must carefully follow the incision care instructions that your nurse will give you in order to heal as quickly and easily as possible.
**Pathology results.** Pathology results are usually available 7 to 10 days after your surgery. Generally your doctor will call you to explain the results. If you had a brain tumor that was malignant, you will have an appointment with an oncologist about two weeks after surgery. The oncologist will talk with you about chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

**Your incisions.** Six weeks after surgery you will have an appointment with your surgeon to make sure your incisions are healing properly.