

**Are smart shunts commercially available?**

Smart shunts are not yet commercially available. They are still in development and undergoing testing.

**Do smart shunts rely on WiFi?**

No, smart shunts do not rely on Wi-Fi to function. The shunt itself operates independently of any internet connection. The "smart" feature of the shunt comes from a sensor that monitors and/or controls the flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to ensure proper drainage. While some smart shunts may have Wi-Fi or Bluetooth capabilities, these are used solely to transmit data about how the shunt is working to your healthcare provider, not to control its function. This means there is no risk of the shunt malfunctioning due to a loss of Wi-Fi connection.

**Can smart shunts be hacked?**

While no technology is completely without risk, smart shunts are being designed with patient safety and confidentiality as a top priority. Security measures must be carefully implemented to protect patient data. As these devices continue to be refined, the focus remains on ensuring they are both secure and reliable.

**Would I have to undergo another surgery to get this?**

Once commercially available, the smart shunt would be an option for patients who are either getting a shunt for the first time or need a shunt revision. If you already have a functioning shunt, there would be no need for additional surgery to upgrade to a smart shunt. However, if a revision is necessary, the smart shunt could be considered as part of that procedure.

**Do smart shunts need to be maintained differently than traditional shunts?**

Smart shunts are electromechanical devices that may have batteries that need to be charged. Other maintenance issues for the electronics may be required depending on the technology used. The hope is that smart shunts will not fail as much as traditional shunts, which is expected to reduce the number of hospital admissions and surgical procedures