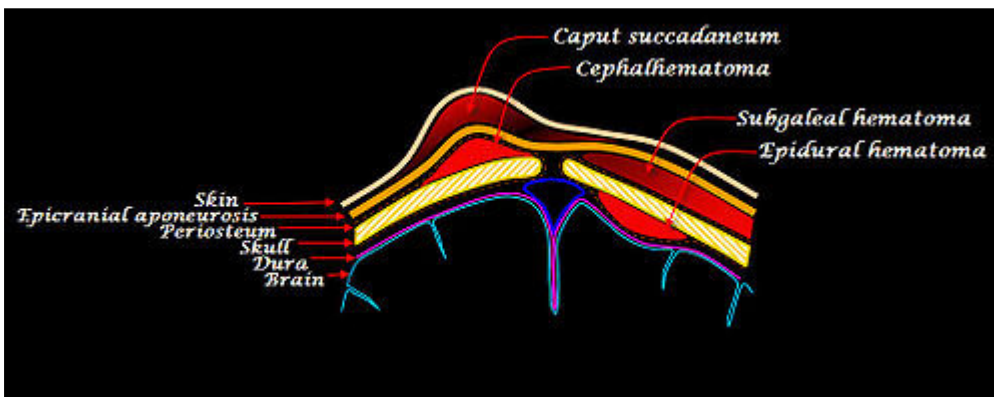


CEPHALHAEMATOMA

What is a Cephalhaematoma

A Cephalhaematoma is a collection of blood under the scalp. It presents as a soft and elastic swelling within the loose tissue of the scalp a few hours following birth. The swelling may occur on either one or both sides of the babies scalp but does not cross the central suture dividing the skull bones.



www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Cephalhematoma

Why does a cephalhaematoma occur?

Cephalhaematomas occur as a consequence of blood vessels rupturing between the periosteum and the skull due to torsion of the scalp during delivery. It is associated with a prolonged second stage of labour, instrumental and vacuum deliveries.

How is a cephalhaematoma diagnosed?

Cephalhaematomas become evident soon after birth and will be observed by the midwifery and medical staff looking after your baby.



www.consultantlive.com/.../article/10162/33527
www.nurse.cmu.ac.th/.../lesson1/page14.html

fact sheet

How is a cephalhaematoma managed?

There is no treatment required for an uncomplicated cephalhematoma. The swelling will dissolve over a period of weeks and will be gone completely within a few months. A rim of calcified bone may be felt for some time (months-years) but will not be visible with hair growth.

Can there be complications from a cephalhaematoma?

Occasionally cephalhaematomas may be associated with a skull fracture. The medical staff will determine whether they believe a skull x-ray is required to look for a skull fracture. Due to re-absorption of the blood in the haematoma your baby may become jaundiced and require phototherapy. Rarely a very large cephalhaematoma may cause significant blood loss requiring a transfusion and causing an abnormality in clotting factors. Occasionally the skin may be broken over a cephalhaematoma for which no treatment is generally required other than careful bathing and keeping the area clean and dry. Rarely this area may become infected and require antibiotic treatment.

If you have any further questions please ask the medical and nursing staff.

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