Shunting in developing countries

1. The outcome of shunting is not determined by the type or price of the shunt but by the skills of the surgeon and the whole theatre staff, the good selection and preparation of the patient, the aseptic theatre and operation material and the pre and postoperative care.¹

2. IF provides the Indian Chabra medium pressure shunts. 4 years of experience in different projects gave satisfying results. Information can be obtained by contacting the surgeon working with this type of shunt. Dr Warf, Dr Kinasha, Dr Lyamuya, Dr Bransfort, etc. In a comparative study by Dr. Alfred Aschoff on the outcome of different types of shunts, the Chabra shunt came out as a valid alternative for the more expensive ones².

3. Prof. Kalangu stated that ultrasound scan is a good alternative for investigation Hydrocephalus in infants where a CT scan is not available. But this investigation must be carried out by either the surgeon himself in order to get the maximum of information or by a special trained echographist. In his research he found that an important reduction in complications and mortality, short and long term, can be achieved by giving parents full and comprehensive information³.

4. IF produced simple leaflets as a helpful tool in informing parents. (see attached)

More information on the IF- website www.ifglobal.org

¹ Dr. M. Choux, Shunt Implantation: reducing the incidence of shunt infection. J. Neurosurg. Volume 77: 875-880, 1992
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