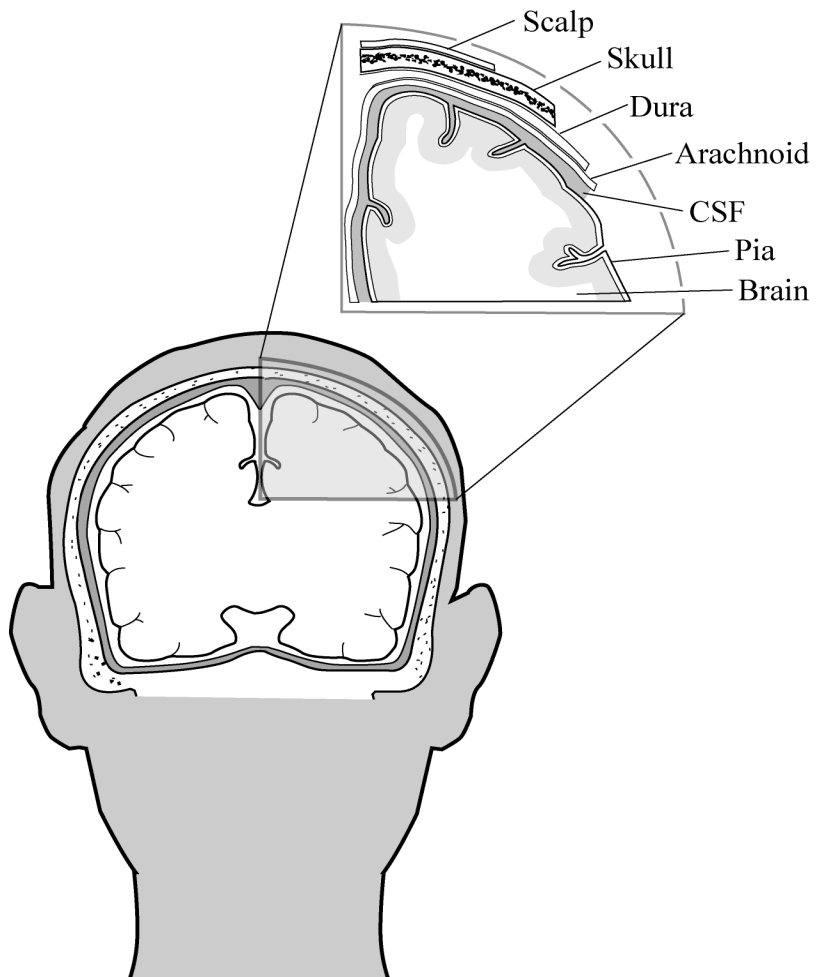


Parts of the Head and Brain

This handout explains many of the words your care team may use to talk about the head and brain. If you have questions or concerns, please talk with a care team member.

Parts of the Head

- The **scalp** is the skin covering of the head that is often covered with hair.
- The **skull** is the hard bony covering that encases and protects the brain.
- The **meninges** are the three layers inside the skull that cover the brain. These layers provide added protection to the brain. The layers are called the **dura**, **arachnoid** and **pia**.
- **Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)** surrounds the brain in the space between the arachnoid and pia. It also fills the open spaces within the brain to provide a protective cushion. The fluid is normally clear and looks like water. It is made inside the brain and provides nutrients to the brain.

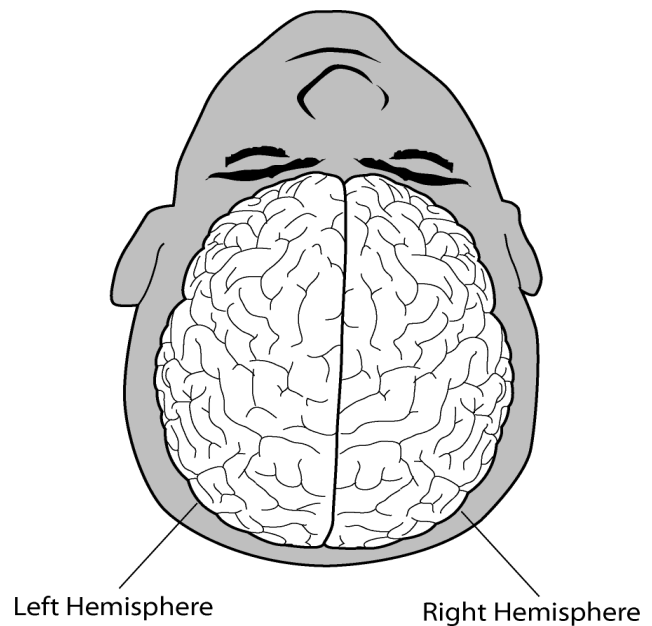


This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

Parts of the Brain

- The **cerebral cortex** (cerebrum) makes up the largest portion of the brain. It is divided into two halves called the left and right hemispheres. The **left hemisphere** controls movement of the right side of the body. The **right hemisphere** controls movement of the left side of the body.

Each hemisphere has four lobes. Each lobe controls certain body functions.



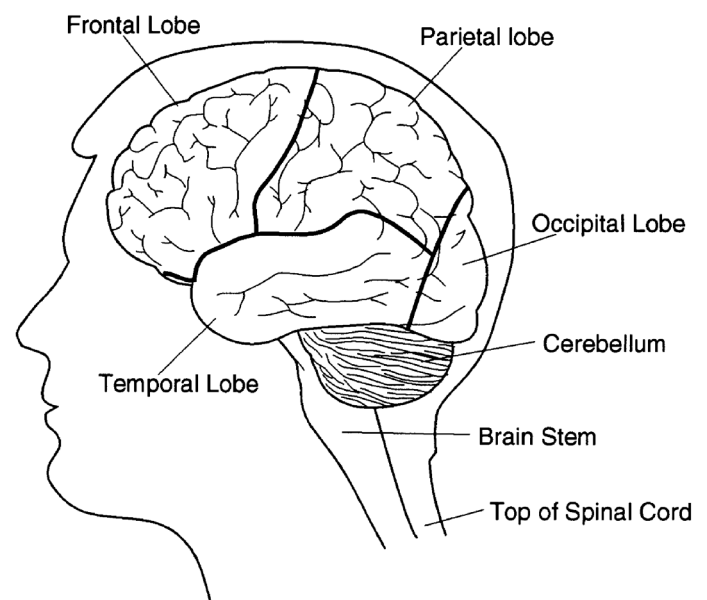
- ▶ The **frontal lobe** is behind the forehead. It controls thought, personality, behavior, judgment and problem solving. Concentration, attention and the abilities to organize and plan are also controlled here.

- ▶ The **occipital lobe**, which is located in the back of the brain, controls vision.

- ▶ The **parietal lobe** controls sense of touch, perception, awareness of body parts, talking, writing, math, grammar, organization of speech and one's ability to tell size, shape and color of things.

- ▶ The fourth lobe, called the **temporal lobe**, regulates hearing, smell, taste, memory, organization and understanding of speech.

- The **brain stem** is located under the cerebral cortex. It connects the cerebral cortex to the spinal cord. It sends messages back and forth from the cerebral cortex to other parts of the body. Attention, arousal, and sleep and wake functions are based here. The brain stem also controls breathing, heart rate and blood pressure.



Parts of the Head and Brain

- **Cranial nerves** are twelve pairs of nerves that come out from the base of the brain and brain stem. These nerves control smell, hearing, eyesight, taste, swallowing, coughing, eye movements and other body functions.
- The **cerebellum** lies at the back of the skull under the cerebral cortex. It helps to coordinate movement of the arms and legs and balance.
- The **spinal cord** is the communication line for messages that travel to and from the brain.