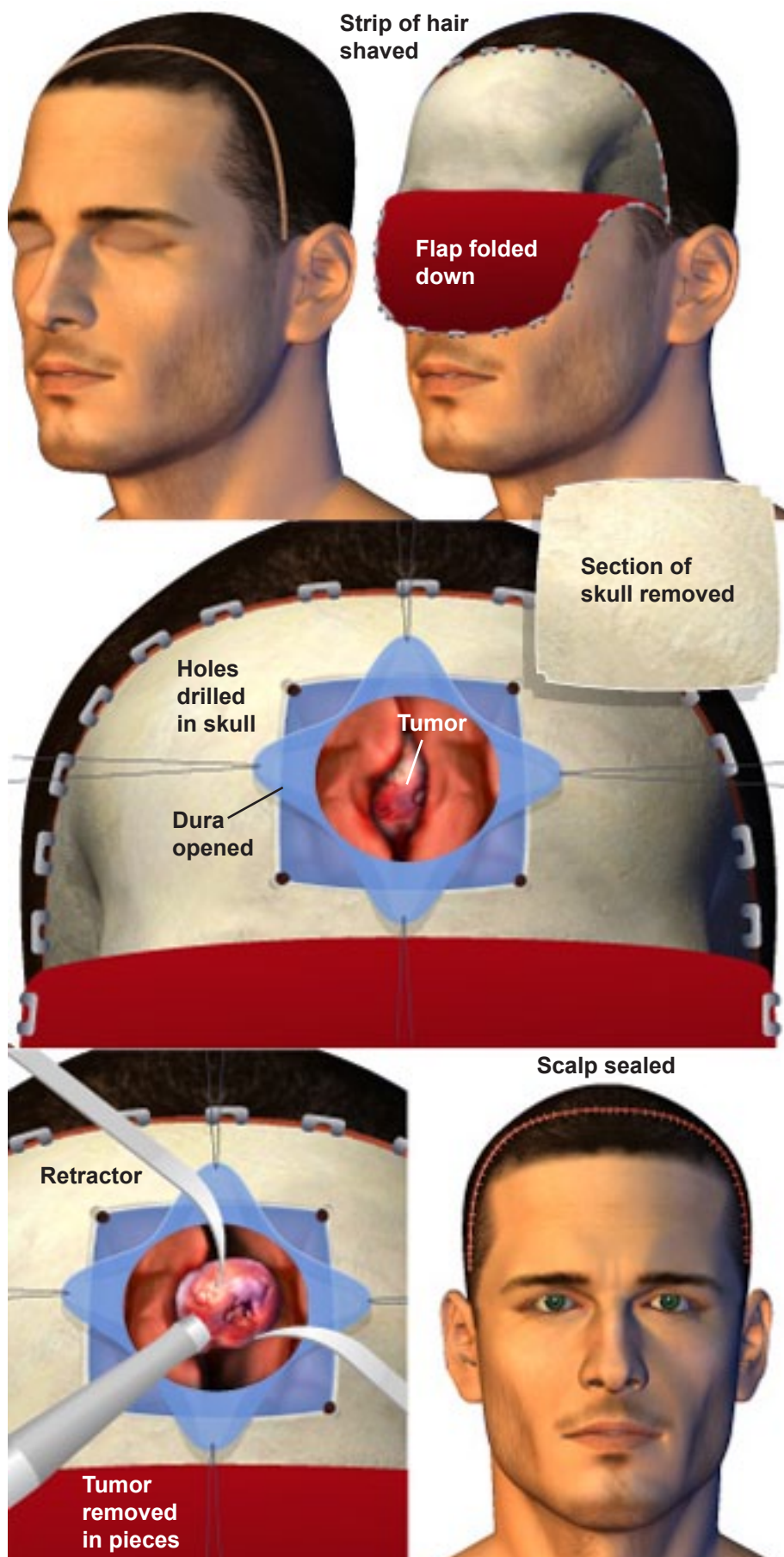


Bifrontal Craniotomy for Tumor



Overview

This surgery is used to remove a tumor from the frontal lobe of the brain. The procedure is performed under general anesthesia and requires a hospital stay.

Preparation

The patient's head is fixed into a frame using pins to prevent motion. A narrow strip of hair may be shaved.

Accessing the Skull

The surgeon creates a coronal incision in the scalp. This incision starts in front of one ear and crosses all the way over the top of the head and down to the other ear. The skin of the forehead is pulled down to expose the skull.

Opening the Skull

The surgeon drills one or more small holes into the skull and then saws between the holes to free a section of bone. This "skull flap" is removed and stored. The surgeon opens and folds back the dura (the membrane covering the brain).

Removing the Tumor

Soft, flexible retractors may be used to hold healthy brain tissue aside to give the surgeon room to work. The tumor is carefully removed from the brain.

End of Procedure

The dura is sutured closed and the skull flap is replaced. The skull flap may be anchored with fine wires or with plates and screws. In some cases, a temporary drain may be placed at the surgical site to prevent fluid buildup. The skin flap is folded back and sealed with sutures and/or surgical staples.

After Care

The patient can expect to stay in the hospital for several days after the surgery. The patient may be able to get out of bed the day after surgery. During recovery, the patient's mental and physical status are tested, and therapy is administered if needed. Full recovery usually takes a few months, and the patient may feel fatigued during this time.