

Brain Aneurysm Basics

That Can Save Your Life.

What is a Brain Aneurysm?

A brain aneurysm is a weak bulging spot on the wall of a brain artery, very much like a thin balloon or weak spot on an inner tube.

Brain Aneurysm Statistics

- An estimated 6 million people in the United States have an unruptured brain aneurysm, or 1 in 50 people
- The annual rate of rupture is approximately 8 per 100,000 people or about 25,000 people
- About 40% of all people who have a ruptured brain aneurysm will die as a result
- 4 out of 7 people who recover from a ruptured brain aneurysm will have disabilities
- Brain aneurysms are most prevalent in people ages 35- 60, but can occur in children as well
- Women, more than men, suffer from brain aneurysms at a ratio of 3:2
- Ruptured brain aneurysms account for 3 - 5% of all new strokes

Did You Know?

- 1 in 50 people has a brain aneurysm
- About 40% of people who have a brain aneurysm rupture will die

Warning Signs/Symptoms

Unruptured

- Cranial nerve palsy
- Dilated pupil
- Double vision
- Pain above or behind the eye
- Localized headache
- Drooping eyelid

Ruptured

Localized or diffuse headache associated with one or more of the following:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Stiff neck
- Blurred or double vision
- Sensitivity to light (photophobia)
- Change in mental status or awareness
- Seizure

Risk Factors

that doctors and researchers believe contribute to the formation of brain aneurysms:

- Smoking
- Hypertension
- Congenital resulting from inborn abnormality in artery wall
- Drug use, particularly cocaine
- Infection
- Tumors
- Traumatic head injury
- Family history of brain aneurysms
- Other inherited disorders: Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Polycystic Kidney Disease, and Marfan's Syndrome
- Presence of an arteriovenous malformation

219-712-6660  P.O. Box 1394, Crown Point, IN 46308-1394

www.blubirdfoundation.org



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