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Cerebral Aneurysms

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Source

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). [Cerebral Aneurysms Information Page](#).

A cerebral aneurysm is a weak or thin spot on a blood vessel in the brain that balloons out and fills with blood. A cerebral aneurysm can press on a nerve or surrounding tissue in the brain, and also leak or burst, which lets blood spill into surrounding tissues (called a hemorrhage). Cerebral aneurysms can occur at any age, although they are more common in adults than in children and are more common in women than in men. These aneurysms can occur anywhere in the brain. Some small aneurysms may not show signs and are usually detected during imaging tests for other medical conditions. The signs and symptoms of an unruptured cerebral aneurysm will partly depend on its size and rate of growth. A larger aneurysm that is steadily growing may produce symptoms such as numbness, pain above and behind the eye, and paralysis on one side of the face. Immediately after an aneurysm ruptures, an individual may experience such symptoms as a sudden and unusually severe headache, nausea, vision impairment, vomiting, and loss of consciousness.