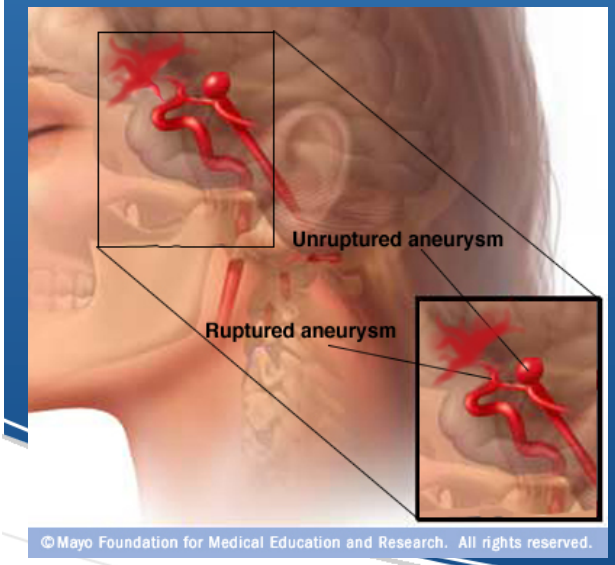
What is a Brain Aneurysm?

- A brain aneurysm is an abnormal, outward bulging of an artery in the brain caused by weakness in the arterial wall.

- Aneurysms can occur at any age, however aneurysms are most often detected in patients between the ages of 40 and 60 years.

- Aneurysms are more prevalent along women (60%), and approximately 20% of patients have two or more aneurysms.



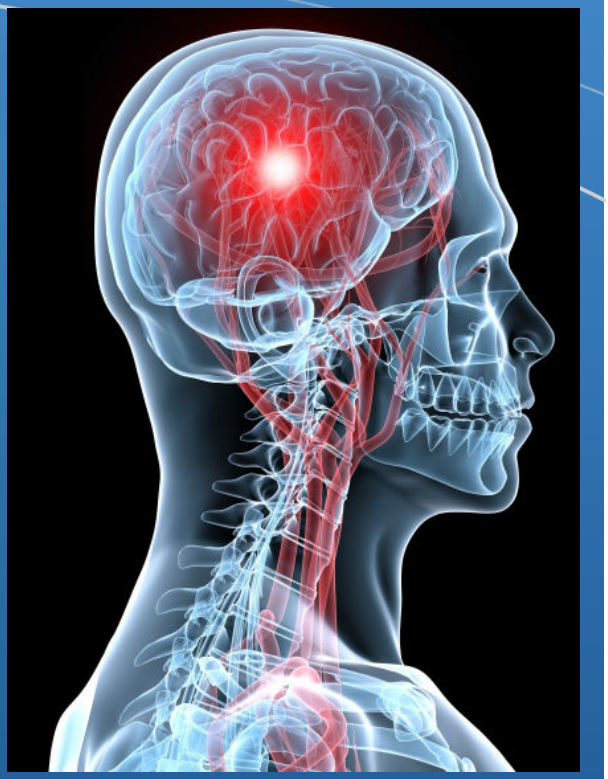
Brain aneurysms develop as a result of thinning artery walls. Aneurysms often form at forks or branches in arteries because those sections of the vessel are weaker.

1 in 50 People in the U.S. with an unruptured brain aneurysm

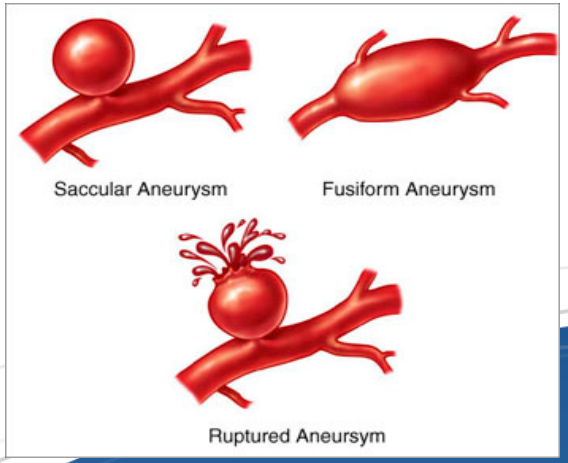
4 in 10 People with a ruptured brain aneurysm who die as a result

What are the Symptoms of a Brain Aneurysm?

- Limited eye movement
- Dilated pupils
- Double Vision
- Pain above and behind eye
- Localized Headache
- Nausea / Vomiting
- Loss of Sensation



Brain Aneurysm



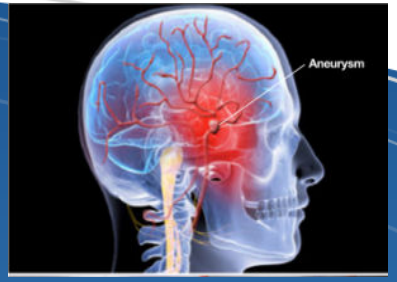
Prognosis

The prognosis for persons whose aneurysm has burst is largely dependent on the age and general health of the individual, other pre-existing neurological conditions, location of the aneurysm, extent of bleeding (and rebleeding), and time between rupture and medical attention.

Individuals who receive treatment for an unruptured aneurysm generally require less rehabilitative therapy and recover more quickly than persons whose aneurysm has burst. Recovery from treatment or rupture may take weeks to months.

Risk factors that develop over time

- Older age
- Smoking
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Hardening of the arteries (arteriosclerosis)
- Drug abuse, particularly the use of cocaine
- Head injury
- Heavy alcohol consumption
- Certain blood infections



What to Expect After an Aneurysm?

- Changes in behavior
- Mood and emotions are common after surgery.
- Some patients also may experience deficits in cognitive, or thinking, abilities.
- Such changes present challenges for caregivers trying to help the patient recover.

Resources

www.brainaneurysm.com

www.mayoclinic.org

http://www.ninds.nih.gov

http://www.bafound.org

http://www.strokeassociation.org

Risk factors present at birth

- **Inherited connective tissue disorders,** such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, that weaken blood vessels
- **Polycystic kidney disease,** an inherited disorder that results in fluid-filled sacs in the kidneys and usually increases blood pressure
- **Abnormally narrow aorta** (coarctation of the aorta), the large blood vessel that delivers oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the body
- **Cerebral arteriovenous malformation** (brain AVM), an abnormal connection between arteries and veins in the brain that interrupts the normal flow of blood between them
- **Family history of brain aneurysm,** particularly a first-degree relative, such as a parent, brother or sister.