

Brain aneurysms and heredity

Did you know aneurysms can run in families?



Stroke &
Cerebrovascular
Center

Changing Health Care for Good.®



Brain aneurysm facts

- A brain aneurysm is a bulge on the wall of a blood vessel resembling a balloon filled with air.
- Some people are born with medical or genetic conditions that make them more prone to an aneurysm, and other people are at higher risk due to normal aging, lifestyle choices or certain health problems.
- Brain aneurysms are more common in women.
- A brain aneurysm can happen at any age.
- Up to 4 percent of people live with an undetected brain aneurysm.
- If left untreated, an aneurysm can rupture and cause a stroke. This is a life-threatening condition that requires immediate medical attention.

Brain aneurysm risk factors

- Smoking
- Older age (especially people older than 50)
- Alcohol or drug abuse, particularly cocaine use
- High blood pressure
- Hardened or narrowed arteries (atherosclerosis)

- Head injury
- An infection in a blood vessel
- Uncontrolled diabetes
- Polycystic kidney disease

Brain aneurysm symptoms

Over time, an aneurysm may grow and press on brain nerves. If this happens, you may experience:

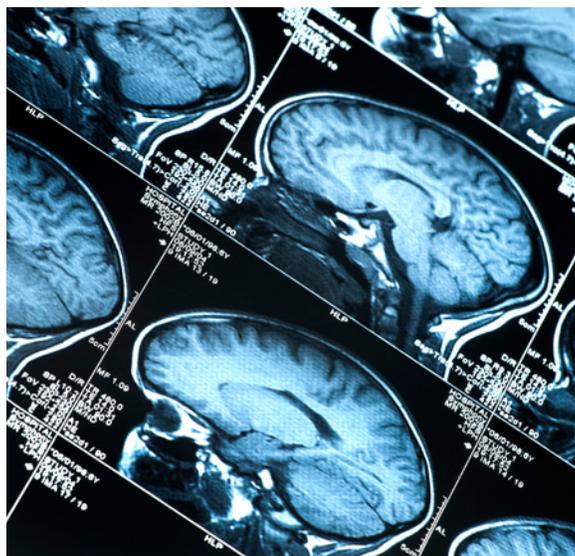
- Headache
- Pain above or behind one eye
- Blurred or double vision
- Seizures

Brain aneurysms and heredity

- If you have a family member with a brain aneurysm, your risk of having an aneurysm increases from 4 to 6 percent.
- If you have two family members with a brain aneurysm, your risk of having an aneurysm **doubles** from 4 to 8 percent.

If you have a strong history of brain aneurysms in your family, your doctor may suggest one or more of the following tests:

- **CT scan** – captures X-ray images of the arteries in your brain. Your doctor might combine this with a special dye injected in your blood stream to see how well blood is flowing through your brain
- **MRI** – captures 3-D images of your brain
- **A spinal tap** – examines a sample of the fluid surrounding your brain and spinal cord
- **A cerebral angiogram** – examines the arteries in your brain through a test that combines X-rays and a special dye

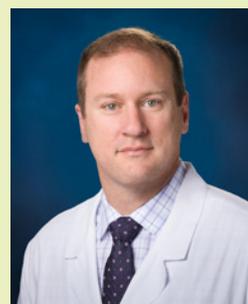


If you suspect a ruptured brain aneurysm, call 911 immediately.

Meet our endovascular neurosurgeons

Ricardo A. Hanel, MD, PhD, director of Baptist Neurological Institute; Eric Sauvageau, MD, director of the Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center, and Nima Aghaebrahim, MD, interventional neurologist, specialize in groundbreaking minimally invasive procedures for treating strokes, cerebral aneurysms, brain tumors and brain arteriovenous malformations. They are known for their advanced treatment of aneurysms, including flow diverter technology, stenting and coiling, as well as more traditional methods, such as clipping and bypasses.

Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center is the most comprehensive stroke center in the region. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a brain aneurysm, you'll find the care and support you need at the Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center.



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