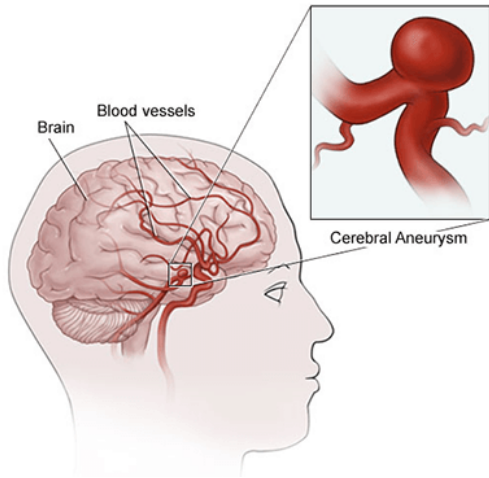


Cerebral aneurysm



Weakness in a blood vessel in the brain that balloons & fills w/ blood

◦ causes: defect is congenital or secondary to **hypertension & atherosclerosis**

◦ assessment:

- sudden & severe headache
- dizziness
- n/v

} followed by **rapid** loss of consciousness

→ if a **ruptured** aneurysm produces a small leak, a stiff neck, headache, visual disturbances, & intermittent nausea develop

◦ diagnostic:

- **CT & MRI** are preferred to not add pressure & risk rupture
- cerebral angiography: help visualize a slow leak, unruptured aneurysm or impending rupture
- Hunt-Hess scale: grades pt based on LOC & deficits

◦ med management: conservative management

- complete **bed rest**
- prevention of rebleeding at rupture site
- HOB elevated = ↓ ICP & **cerebral edema**
- antihypertensive, anticonvulsant, tranquilizers, osmotic diuretics, corticosteroids
- assess & prevent **n/v**: vomiting ↑ ICP

◦ surgical management: **craniotomy**

- dangerous, usually performed after initial rupture to control bleeding & weakened vasculature to prevent further ruptures
- clips, clamps, or stent-filling aneurysm w/ **coil** to prevent rupture

◦ nursing management:

- report neuro changes = ↑ ICP
- initiate seizure precautions
- **NO** opioid; only codeine