

Internationally Recognized for the Treatment of Cerebral Aneurysms

The Swedish Neuroscience Institute at Swedish Medical Center

It's a normal day like any other when, suddenly, you experience what must be the worst headache of your life. The pain is so bad you feel nauseous and your vision has blurred or even doubled. What's more, your neck feels incredibly stiff and one of your eyelids is drooping. This is no ordinary headache; you are experiencing the warning signs of a ruptured cerebral aneurysm.

Occurring as a result of a weak area on a blood vessel in the brain that subsequently expands and fills with blood, cerebral aneurysms can happen to anyone, regardless of age or gender. They often go undetected and cause no symptoms, but almost 30,000 people experience a sudden cerebral aneurysm rupture every year.

"Without immediate treatment, a ruptured cerebral aneurysm can lead to coma, severe neurological disability or even death," says neurosurgeon David Newell, M.D. of the Swedish Neuroscience Institute at Swedish Medical Center.

Most common in adults between the ages of 30 and 60, it is estimated that up to 2% of all adults may have an unruptured cerebral aneurysm. Although many are congenital defects present since birth, aneurysms can form later in life. "Risk factors for developing an aneurysm include cigarette smoking, high blood pressure and drug or alcohol abuse," Dr. Newell says. "What's more, aneurysms can increase in size over time and, the larger the aneurysm is, the more prone it is to rupture."



At the Swedish Neuroscience Institute, Dr. Newell and his colleagues employ a comprehensive range of leading-edge tools to evaluate and treat both ruptured and unruptured cerebral aneurysms. "We have the most advanced imaging, analysis and treatment facilities in the region and we've pioneered groundbreaking technologies, including cerebral balloon angioplasty to increase blood flow and transcranial Doppler ultrasonography to diagnose vasospasm after aneurysm rupture," says Dr. Newell, who is nationally recognized as an expert in the care of cerebral aneurysms.

"What is most important for our patients, however, is our dedication to a collaborative team approach," continues Dr. Newell. "With our interventional neuroradiologist Joseph Eskridge, M.D., we have the most experienced team in the region."

"Together with the most advanced techniques available, our complementary skills ensure that each patient receives the best care and the most optimal outcome," says Dr. Eskridge. "Not only do we have state-of-the-art treatments for ruptured aneurysms like minimally-invasive endoscopic surgery, microsurgery and bypass surgery, but we also have a complete array of noninvasive screening and a long history of treating unruptured aneurysms."

"A cerebral aneurysm can turn your life upside down in an instant," adds Dr. Newell. "That's why we're ready, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to give our patients the expert care they need for the best recoveries possible."

To learn more about the Swedish Neuroscience Institute, visit the website at www.swedish.org/neuroscience. To make an appointment, call 206-320-2800.

To request emergency transfer, call 206-386-6090.



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