

# BRAIN ANEURYSM STATISTICS & FACTS

**1 in 50** PEOPLE

EVERY **18 MINUTES**

**30,000 RUPTURES** PER YEAR

## Number of People Affected

- An estimated 6.8 million people in the United States have an unruptured brain aneurysm or 1 in 50 people.
- The annual rate of rupture is approximately 8–10 per 100,000 people.
- About 30,000 people in the United States suffer a brain aneurysm rupture each year. A brain aneurysm ruptures every 18 minutes.
- There are almost 500,000 deaths worldwide each year caused by brain aneurysms, and half the victims are younger than 50.

## Population Most Affected

- Brain aneurysms are most prevalent in people ages 35 to 60, but can occur in children as well. Most aneurysms develop after the age of 40.
- Women are more likely than men to have a brain aneurysm (3:2 ratio).
- Women, particularly those over the age of 55, have a higher risk of brain aneurysm rupture than men (about 1.5 times the risk).
- African-Americans and Hispanics are about twice as likely to have a brain aneurysm rupture compared to whites.

## Devastation Caused by Aneurysms

- Ruptured brain aneurysms are fatal in about 50% of cases. Of those who survive, about 66% suffer some permanent neurological deficit.
- Approximately 15% of people with a ruptured aneurysm die before reaching the hospital. Most of the deaths are due to rapid and massive brain injury from the initial bleeding.
- According to a 2004 study, in the United States, the combined lost wages of survivors of brain aneurysm rupture and their caretaker for one year were \$150M.

## Diagnosis and Treatment Facts

- Most aneurysms are small — about 1/8 inch to nearly one inch — and an estimated 50-80% of all aneurysms do not rupture.
- 20% of people diagnosed with a brain aneurysm have more than one aneurysm.
- Aneurysms larger than one inch are referred to as “giant” aneurysms. These can pose a particularly high risk and can also be difficult to treat.
- Ruptured brain aneurysms account for 3-5% of all new strokes.
- Among patients evaluated in an emergency department for headaches, approximately one in 100 has a ruptured aneurysm, according to one study. Another study puts the number at four in 100.
- Accurate early diagnosis of a ruptured brain aneurysm is critical, as the initial hemorrhage may be fatal or result in devastating neurologic outcomes.

## Misdiagnosis and Associated Costs

- Despite the widespread availability of brain imaging that can detect a ruptured brain aneurysm, misdiagnosis or delays in diagnosis occur in up to one quarter of patients when initially seeking medical attention. In three out of four cases, misdiagnosis results from a failure to do a scan.
- The treatment of ruptured brain aneurysms is far more costly than the treatment of unruptured aneurysms: The cost of a brain aneurysm treated by surgical clipping more than doubles after the aneurysm has ruptured. The cost of a brain aneurysm treated by endovascular coiling increases by about 70% after the aneurysm has ruptured.
- The federal government spends only \$2.08 per year on brain aneurysm research for each person afflicted.



**BRAIN ANEURYSM  
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