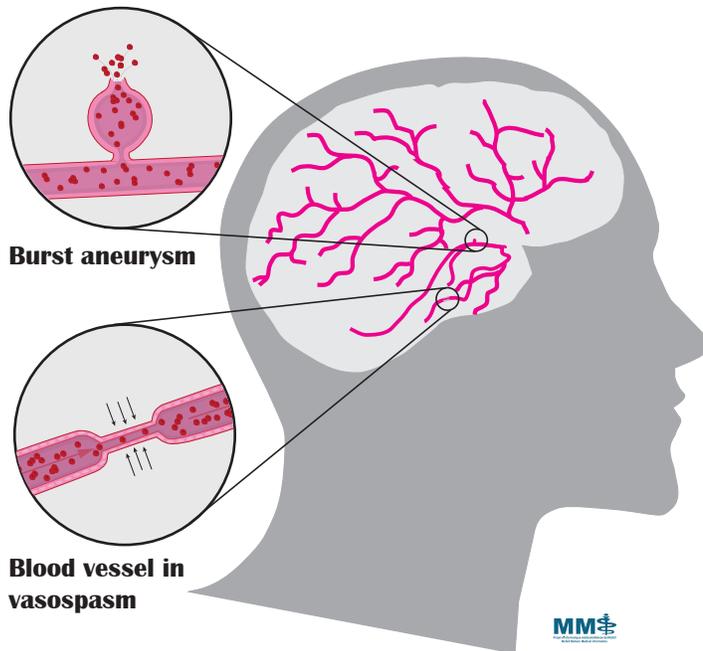


What you should know about Cerebral Vasospasm

What is cerebral vasospasm?

Cerebral vasospasm happens when the large blood vessels in your brain narrow after bleeding in your brain. This bleeding can be caused when an aneurysm (a bulge in the wall of an artery) bursts. When vasospasm occurs it reduces the blood and oxygen getting to your brain. If vasospasm is not treated it may cause brain damage or even death.



How often and when does cerebral vasospasm happen?

About 1 in 3 people who have had a burst brain aneurysm develop cerebral vasospasm. It usually does not happen right away but rather 3 to 21 days after the aneurysm bursts. During this time the healthcare team will closely watch you or your hospitalized family member.

How can damage to the brain be prevented?

The best way to prevent cerebral (brain) damage is to start the treatment as soon as needed.

What are the signs of cerebral vasospasm?

The healthcare team will look for:

- drowsiness
- weakness on one side of the body
- trouble speaking
- confusion
- trouble following commands

If you or your family members notice any of these signs, please report it to the healthcare team as soon as possible.

What is the treatment?

We use a number of methods to treat cerebral vasospasm. Our main goal is to keep the blood vessels open so there is a good supply of blood. To do this we use medication to increase the amount of blood going to the brain. We pay careful attention to keeping the blood pressure relatively high and to keeping the person well hydrated with fluids.