



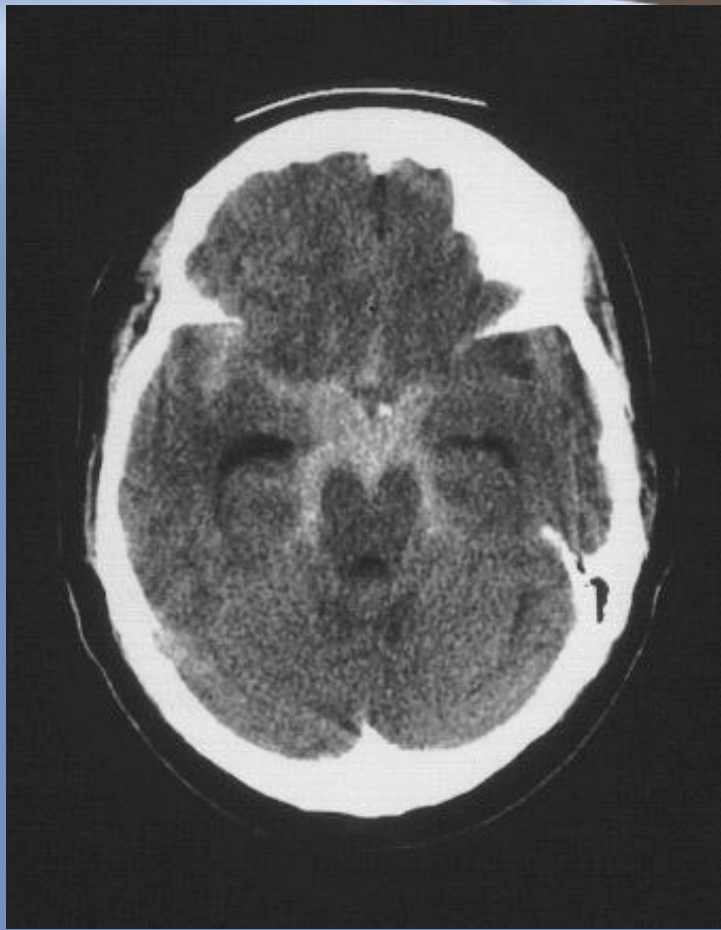
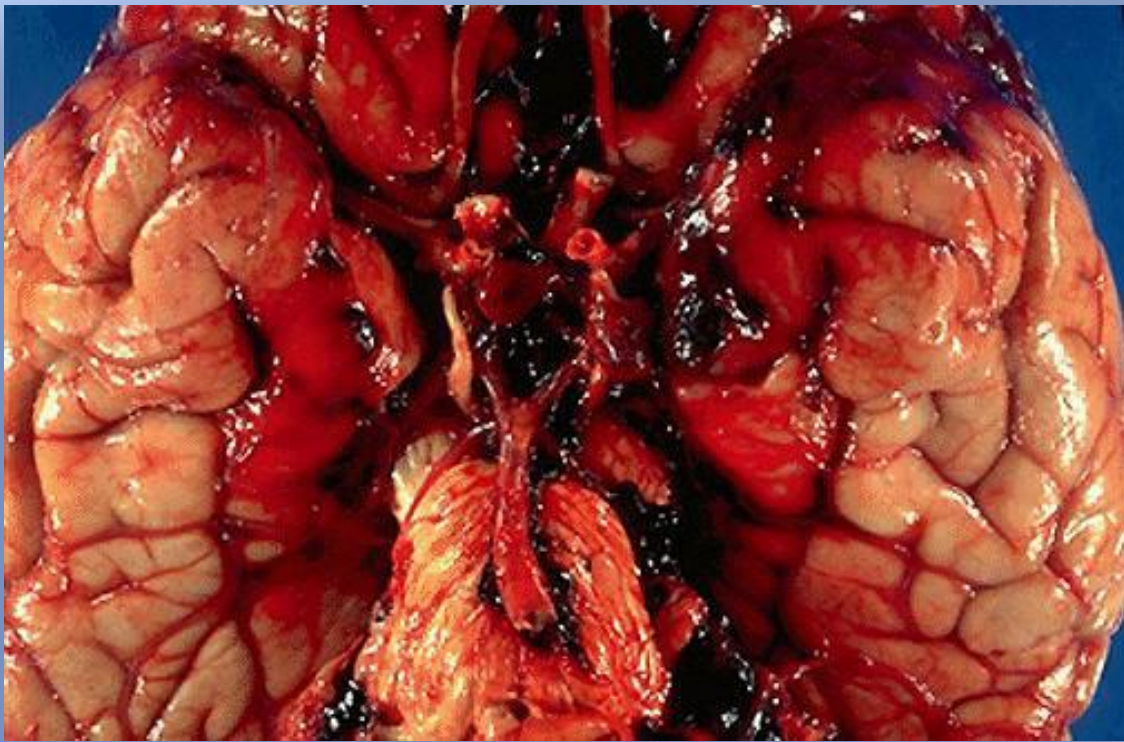
Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Basics, Breakthroughs, and Beyond

Tiffany Hoke, DNP, RN, RNP, APRN-RX, AGACNP-BC, SCRNP, CNRN

International Neuroscience Nurses Symposium

Introduction

- Aloha!
- Why talk about subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH)?
 - Demystify.
 - Empower through awareness promotion.





Objectives

- Summarize **basic** science and management of SAH.
- Highlight recent **breakthroughs** related to the science and management of SAH and inspire us to go **beyond**.



Basics



KEEP CALM
AND
FOCUS ON THE BASICS

Epidemiology

- 5% of all strokes.
- 30,000 people yearly in U.S.
 - Most between ages 40-60.
 - **Do NOT dismiss suspicion of SAH based on age of presenting individual.**
 - Women > men.
 - 12% **die** before receiving medical attention.
 - 20% **die** after admission.
 - 2/3rds **survive**.
 - 1/2 of survivors are permanently disabled.

SAH Etiologies

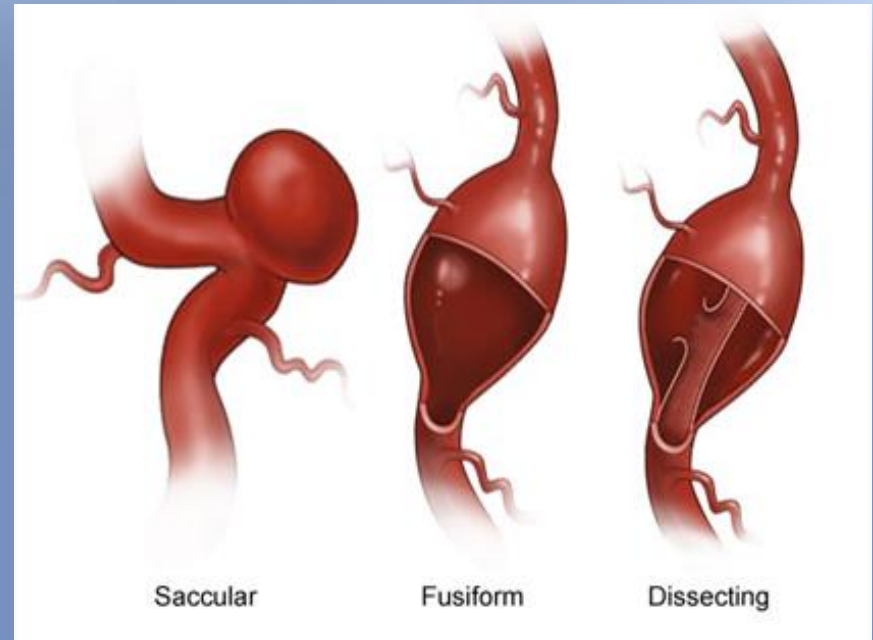
- Trauma = **Most common cause of SAH.**
- **Aneurysmal**
- Idiopathic perimesencephalic
 - Venous source
 - Posterior circulation aneurysm
 - Perforating artery rupture
- AVM
- Moyamoya
- Sympathomimetics
 - Methamphetamine
 - Cocaine
- Pituitary apoplexy
- Vasculitis
- Sickle Cell
- Coagulopathy
- Neoplasm

Aneurysmal Patho

- **Intracranial arteries higher risk than extracranial.**
 - Thinner
 - Less elastin.
 - No external elastic lamina.
 - Less supporting tissue.
 - Possible defects.
- **Size**
 - < 3 mm (very small).
 - 3-6 mm (small).
 - 7-12 mm (small-medium).
 - 13-25 (large).
 - > 25mm (giant).

Aneurysmal Patho

- **Morphology or Types of Aneurysms**
 - **Saccular**
 - 80% of ruptured.
 - **Circle of Willis branches and bifurcations.**
 - **Fusiform**
 - **Dissecting**
 - **Mycotic**
 - Septic emboli ->occlusion->wall weakening.
 - **Distal cerebral vessels.**

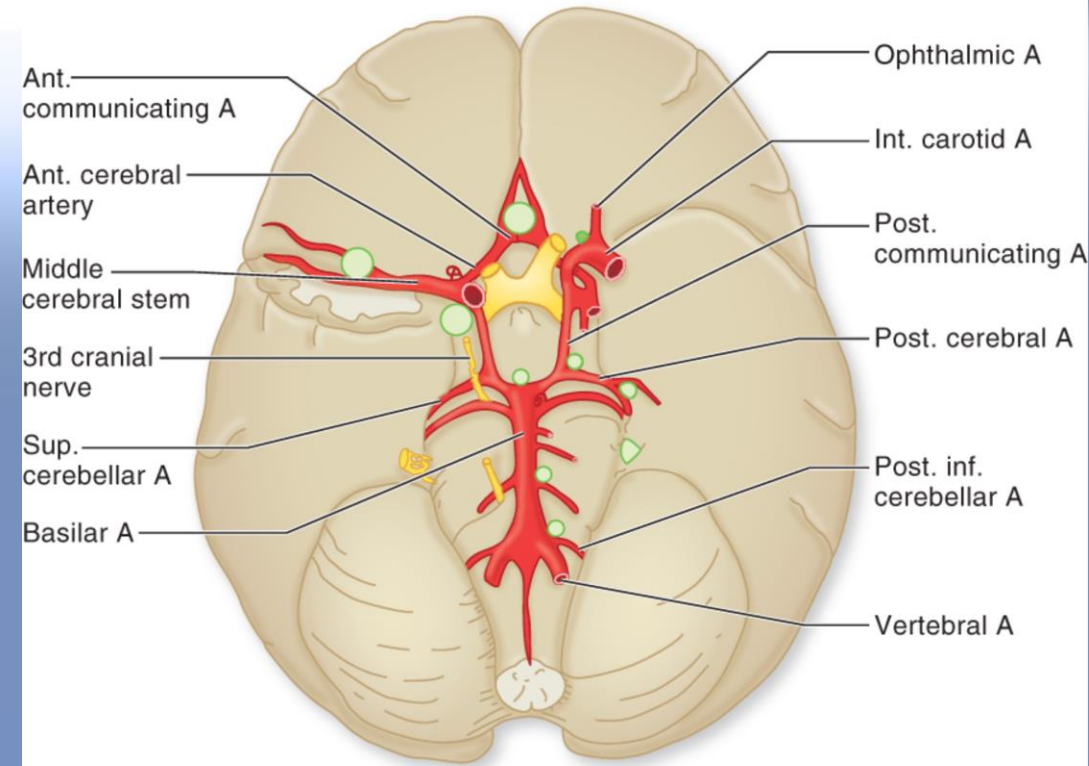


Intracranial Aneurysm Incidence and Prevalence

- **2% of adults have one.**
 - 90% small (< 10 mm) and asymptomatic.
- **20% of patients have 2+**
 - Often a contralateral mirror.



Principle Sites



- **Anterior = 90%**
 - AComA=**40%**
 - PComA/ICA junction =**30%**
 - 1st MCA bifurcation=**20%**
- **Posterior**
 - Basilar apex
 - VA and PICA junction
 - Distal cerebral tree (rare)

Source: Ropper AH, Samuels MA, Klein JP: *Adams and Victor's Principles of Neurology*, Tenth Edition: www.accessmedicine.com
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Associated Aneurysmal Risk Factors and Conditions

- Increases with age.
- Hypertension
- Smoking
- ETOH abuse.
- Sympathomimetic drugs.
- Atherosclerosis
- AVMs
- Moyamoya
- Coarctation of aorta.
- Sickle cell
- Bacterial endocarditis.
- Fungal infection.
- Collagen-Connective Tissue Related Disorders.
- More
- Positive family history
 - MRA screen.
 - 2+ first degree relatives.
 - 5-10% **POSTIVE.**
 - PCKD



Intracranial Aneurysm Rupture

- **Annual risk 0.7%.**
- **Risks**
 - Increasing size.
 - Prior aneurysmal SAH.
 - Basilar apex and pcomm aneurysms.
 - Smoking
 - Aneurysmal headache.
 - CN compression.
 - Heavy ETOH.
 - Family history of rupture.
 - Females
 - Menopausal.
 - Multiple aneurysms.
 - Hypertension
 - Sympathomimetic agents.



Clinical Features

- **Headache**

- Sudden, severe, and constant.
 - “Worst of my life.” “Exploding.”
- Occipital or nuchal.
- More rapid, longer than migraine.
 - Seconds to max.
- After exertion or Valsalva.
- Concurrent vomiting
- Abrupt cessation of activity.
 - **Treatment response does not exclude diagnosis.**

- **Transient deficits**

- Seizure
- Ischemia
- Sudden ICP increase as blood enters subarachnoid space.

- **40-50% = normal mental status.**

Other Clinical Features

- Increased ICP
 - 3rd or 6th CN palsies.
 - Retinal hemorrhages.
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Nuchal rigidity.
- Meningismus
- Back pain with sciatic radiation.
- Confusion
- Lethargy
- Amnestic to event.

Focal Signs of Aneurysmal Rupture

- **ACoMA**
 - Leg weakness.
 - Confusion
 - Bilateral Babinski.
- **PCoMA or SCA (ICA/PCA Junction)**
 - 3rd and 6th nerve palsies.
 - Weber's syndrome.
 - Contralateral hemiplegia due to midbrain compression.
 - Giant SCA.
- **Cavernous sinus**
 - Ophthalmoplegia due to 3rd, 4th, 6th CN compression
- **PCA**
 - Homonymous hemianopia
- **MCA**
 - Aphasia
 - Hemiparesis
 - Anosognosia
 - Seizures
- **Basilar bifurcation**
 - Forward = Visual field defects and hypopituitarism.
 - Vertically = Amnesia, 3rd nerve palsy, bulbar signs, and quadriparesis.
- **Optthalmic artery**
 - Monocular visual disturbance.

When to Scan?

- The headache = **INVESTIGATE.**
- New neuro findings = **INVESTIGATE**
- The headache + new neuro findings = **INVESTIGATE.**
- **Exam can be normal!**
 - 12-24% SAHs misdiagnosed!
 - 5% of 1st visit ED patients with HA misdiagnosed → worse outcomes.
 - Often due to failure to attain CT.
 - » If negative, low threshold for LP!
 - » If series LPs contain only positives, too few are being performed!

ENLS SAH Protocol: The First Hour

- **Brain imaging.**
- **Labs**
 - PT/PTT
 - CBC
 - PLT
 - BMP
 - Troponin
 - Toxicology
- **EKG**
- **Establish BP goal.**
- **Address hydrocephalus.**



Diagnostics

- **Non-contrast brain CT**

- SAH in cisterns, around circle of Willis, major fissures, IVH.
 - Convexity usually nonaneurysmal, but remember mycotic.
- **False negative.**
 - Too small.
 - Less sensitive over time.
 - 50% after 1 week.
 - Hematocrit < 30%
 - Technical factors.

- **CTA**

- Circle of Willis aneurysms, and some distal.

Diagnostics

- **MRI/MRA**

- Consider availability, cost, and required interpretation experience.
- Relationship of aneurysm to adjacent brain structures.
- Can detect aneurysms as small as 3-4 mm.

- **Which one bled?**

- Largest.
- Most irregular.
- Most focal spasm.
- Within vascular territory of focal signs.
- Best correlates with blood collection on CT.

Diagnostics

- **Lumbar Puncture**

- If CT negative.
- **Negative**
 - Large RBCs in initial tube clear by 4th= Traumatic tap.
 - Absence of xanthochromia.
 - Yellowish CSF
 - Hemoglobin breakdown.

- **Positive**

- Large RBC not clearing by 4th.
- Faint pink (4-5 hours out).
- Xanthochromic (12 hours out).
- Elevated protein.
- Pleocytosis (WBC).
- Elevated opening pressure.
- Normal glucose.

After Diagnosis Confirmed

- **Bedrest**
- **Cardiac monitor**
- **EKG**
- **Assure labs attained and review.**
- **Seek expert consultation**
 - Neurovascular or stroke specialist
 - Neurointensivist
- **Communicate**
 - Airway status.
 - Presentation
 - Hunt-Hess
 - Imaging/LP results.
 - Coagulopathy?
 - Hydrocephalus?
 - Meds given.
 - Other images?
 - Discuss BP goal.
 - Seizure prophylaxis?

After Diagnosis Confirmed

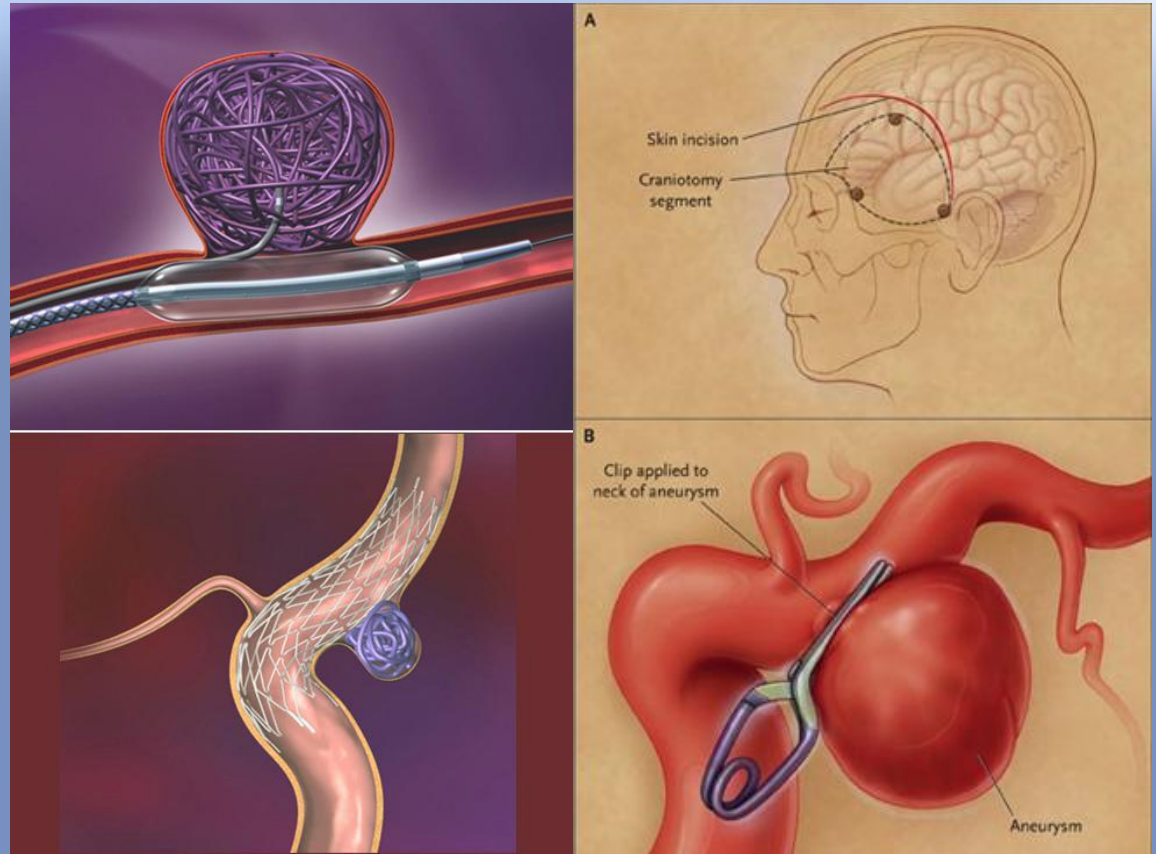
- **Monitor for decline.**
 - Neurocardiogenic shock
 - New hypoxia and acute respiratory failure.
 - Neurogenic pulmonary edema.
 - Seizure.
- **Correct coagulopathy.**
 - Consider risk versus benefit and related patient specifics.
 - INR goal < 1.4.
 - PLT goal > 50,000.
 - Antiplatelet reversal?

After Diagnosis Confirmed

- **Treat pain and anxiety.**
 - Avoid straining , Valsalva, stress.
 - Short acting IV analgesics (fentanyl).
 - Avoid over-medication.
 - Masks exam.
 - Reversal agents cause agitation and risk re-rupture.
- **Control BP**
 - Consider pre-morbid BP.
 - SBP < 140-160 or MAP < 110.
 - Nicardipine
 - Ease of titration.
 - No nitroprusside or nitroglycerin.

SAH Treatment

- Aneurysm securement.
- Complication prevention.
- Complication treatment.



Clinical Course Complications

- Hydrocephalus
- Aneurysmal re-rupture
- Vasospasm and delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI)
- Multi-system abnormalities



Hydrocephalus

- **Altered CSF dynamics.**
 - Blocked flow (obstructive)
 - Impaired absorption due to attachment of blood to arachnoid granulations.
- 30% first 3 days.
- May be asymptomatic
- Increasing headache, lethargy, incontinence, and decreased spontaneity.
- CT scan
- EVD

Aneurysmal Re-rupture

- Highest risk within first 12-24 hours.
 - 20% in first 2 weeks.
- Mortality rate = 50%.
- IPH and SAH.
- Sudden, abrupt, severe changes.
- Rapid coma.

- **Prevent**
 - Bedrest.
 - Minimize stimuli.
 - Pain control.
 - Bowel regimen.
 - BP regulation.
 - Early securement

Vasospasm

- **Substance release into CSF -> Vasoconstriction -> arterial wall necrosis.**
 - Hemolysis (oxyhemoglobin).
 - Endothelial factors.
 - Coagulation cascade.
 - Abnormal smooth muscle contraction or failed relaxation.
- **Can cause delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI).**
- **Risk Factors:**
 - Large amount of blood and thick blood clots in cisterns.
 - Small arterial lumen < 0.5mm with low distal perfusion.
 - Decreased LOC.
 - IVH
 - Elevated BNP.

Vasospasm

- **Early signs**
 - Tachycardia.
 - Hypertension.
 - EEG abnormalities.
 - Decreased LOC.
- **Diffuse**
 - Headache
 - Stupor
 - Confusion
- **Focal signs**
 - Indicate artery involved.
- **Surveillance and Prevention**

Vasospasm

- **Transcranial Doppler (TCD)**

- Day 3-10 increasing velocity.
- Day 5-9 peak.
- Usually resolved by 2 weeks, but max velocities can persist ≥ 20 days.
- MCA > 140 cm/s = Mild on angiography.
- MCA > 200 cm/s = Severe.

- **Suspect?**

- **CTA**
 - Absence of vasoconstriction has negative predictive value of 95%.
- **CT perfusion.**
 - Assess for signs of DCI, salvageable penumbra, or stroke?
- **Angiography**
 - Diagnostic and therapeutic
 - **Not without risk.**
 - 50% positives are asymptomatic.



Other Neuro Complications

- **Global cerebral edema**
 - Poor-grade SAH
 - LOC at bleeding onset.
 - Increased mortality, disability, and cognitive dysfunction.
 - **Early brain injury** on MRI within 72 hours.
 - Symmetric ischemic injury in 70% of Hunt-Hess 4-5.
 - Usually ACA territories.
 - Acute ischemia, reperfusion injury, microvascular dysfunction, inflammation.
- **Seizures**
 - Tonic-clonic
 - 5% during hospitalization.
 - 10% 1 year post D/C.
 - NCSE
 - 20% of poor-grade.
- **Fever**
 - 80%
 - Central (poor-grade).

Cardiac Complications

- Transient echo abnormalities 50-100%.
- Systemic hypertension
- Heart failure
- Arrhythmia
- Myocardial myocyteolysis
 - Serum catecholamines and sympathetic discharges from hypothalamus.
 - Subendocardial hemorrhage.
 - Myofibrillary degeneration.
 - Contraction band necrosis.
- Myocardial infarction
- Hypovolemia
- Site hematoma.

Cardiac Complications

Cardiac Troponin Elevation and Outcome after Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Limin Zhang, MD, Zhilong Wang, MM, and Sihua Qi, PhD

- Troponin elevation in 30%.
- Increased risk of
 - DCI
 - Poor outcome
 - Death

Pulmonary Complications

- **Acute respiratory failure.**
- **Neurogenic pulmonary edema (NPE).**
 - Under recognized.
 - Rapid onset.
 - Proteinaceous fluid.
 - Acute ICP elevation->massive autonomic discharge -> increased cerebral perfusion -> accumulation of fluid within lungs -> hypoxemia
 - Treatment
 - Lower ICP
 - Cautiously eliminate excess fluid.

Fluid and Electrolyte Complications

- **Higher risk with AComA aneurysms.**
- **Hyponatremia**
 - 2-fold increase in length of stay->cost->nosocomial complications.
 - Associated with vasospasm.
- **Cerebral salt wasting (CSW).**
- **Hypervolemia**
 - Usually iatrogenic.
 - Can challenge management of NPE and heart failure.
- **Goal euvolemia and normonatremia.**



Other Complications

- **Endocrine Complications**
 - Hypoperfusion of hypothalamic-pituitary blood supply.
 - SIADH
 - Diabetes insipidus.
- **Hematologic Complications**
 - Anemia
 - Reduced O₂ delivery



Breakthroughs and Beyond



- **Most preventable cause of mortality and poor neuro outcome.**

- **30%**

- **High Risk and Poorer Outcomes.**

- Severe initial SAH.
- More cisternal blood and IVH.
- Poor post resuscitation exam.



- **Paradigm Shift**

- Large-vessel not required for DX.
- Think early brain injury, microcirculatory dysfunction, loss of autoregulation, and micro thrombosis.
- Post-mortem infarcts correlate with microthrombi more than vasospasm or aneurysm location.

- **Prevention**

- Nimodipine
- Euvolemia and normonatremia.
 - Isotonics
 - Fludrocortisone (0.2-0.4 mg/day).
 - Hypertonic saline (3%) for acute correction of symptomatic hyponatremia.

- **Detection and Diagnosis.**

- **Clinical exam: Most reliable.**
 - **Poor grades: Less consistent manifestations.**
- **TCD**
 - $MCA < 120 \text{ cm/s}$: High negative predictive value.
 - $MCA > 180 \text{ cm/s}$: High positive predictive value.
 - Limitations
 - No assessment of distal vasculature.
 - Operator dependent.
 - 10% have no bone windows.
 - 40% with DCI have $MCA < 120 \text{ cm/s}$.

- **Detection and Diagnosis (cont.)**

- **Vascular imaging.**

- **CTA: First line screening tool.**
 - Day 4 (high risk patients).
 - Day 8 (lower risk patients).
 - » Lack of spasm on day 8 = low risk of subsequent DCI.
 - » Decreased ICU days and LOS.
 - **CT perfusion.**
 - Coupled with CTA.
 - Detects salvageable penumbra.

- **Detection and Diagnosis (cont.)**

- **Multimodality monitoring (MMM)**

- Real time early detection.
 - Early autoregulatory failure = poor outcomes.
 - **ICP monitoring.**
 - 80% poor grade SAH have intracranial HTN.
 - CPP > 70 = lesser risk of brain metabolic crisis and hypoxia.

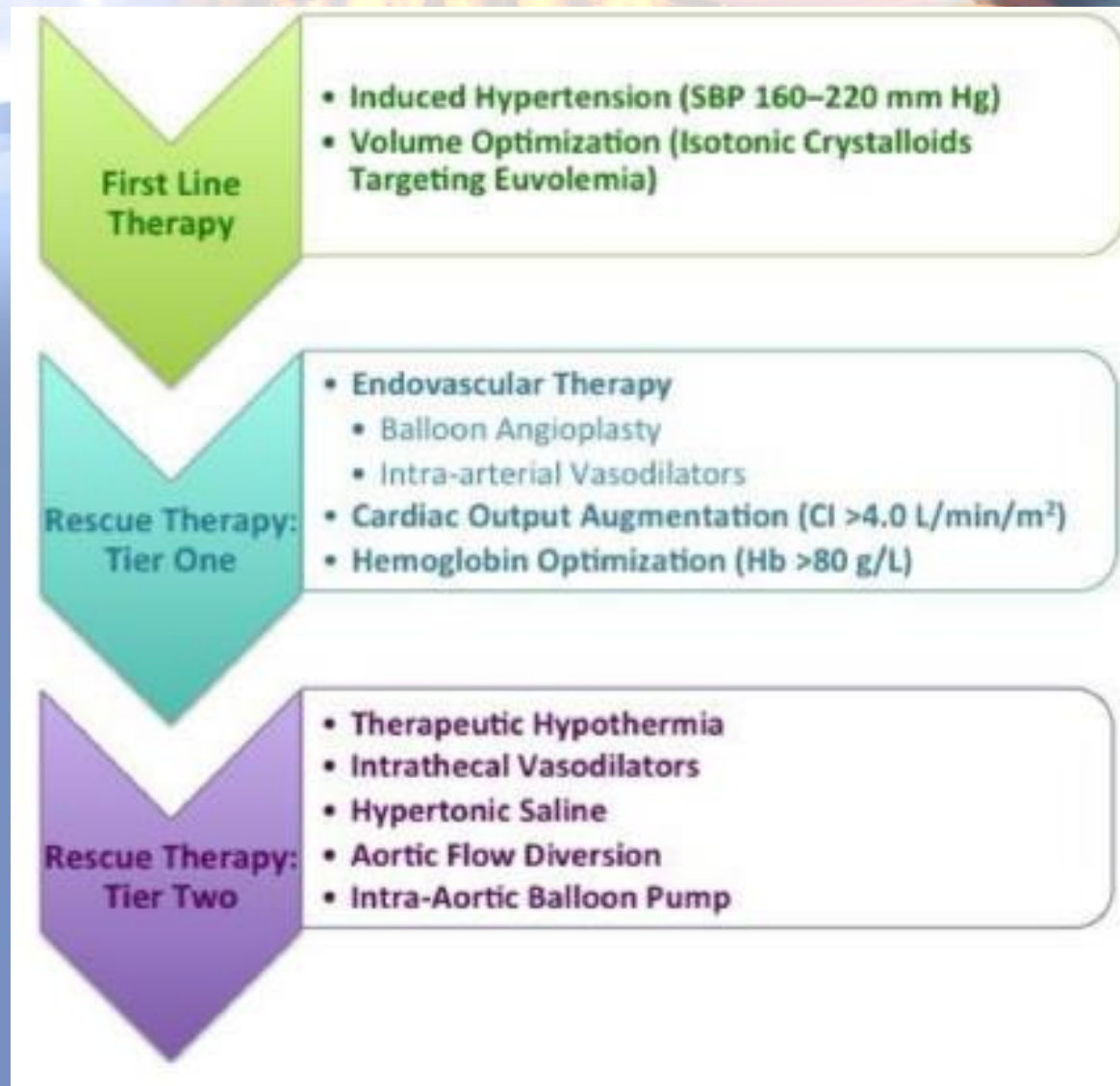
- **PbtO₂**

- Detects cerebral compromise in absence of elevated ICP or low CPP.
 - Early detection of silent infarcts.
 - Higher mean = improved survival.

- **Microdialysis**

- Interstitial fluid composition and cellular metabolism.
 - Derangements precede silent infarction by few hours.
 - » Lactate > 4 mmol = DCI.

Active DCI Stepwise Approach



(Francoeur & Mayer, 2016, Figure 2)

Cardiac Output Augmentation

- Target CI >4.0
- Dobutamine and phenylephrine
 - Can increase CBF by 50% in SAH with severe vasospasm.
- Milrinone
 - More effective inotropy in neurogenic stunned myocardium
 - Decreased beta-receptor sensitization.



Neuroinflammation Research

- **Heparin**
 - Reduced inflammation and apoptosis in models.
- **Glyburide**
 - Reduced inflammation and behavioral deficits in models.
- **Inflammatory cytokines mediate vasospasm.**
 - Rosiglitazone: Antioxidant reduced vasospasm and improved outcome in models.
 - Glutamate modulation reduced vasospasm in models.



Autophagy-Lysosomal System

- **Self-catabolic process**
 - Removes dysfunctional or unnecessary intracellular components degraded by lysosomal enzymes.
 - Activated in ipsilateral frontobasal cortex.
 - Duration 0-3 days.
- **Under or over function is bad.**
 - Appropriate activity = pro-survival mechanism.
 - Excessive self-digestion->cell death.
- **Melatonin stimulated autophagy and suppressed apoptotic cell death->deficit amelioration in models.**

Radiogenomics

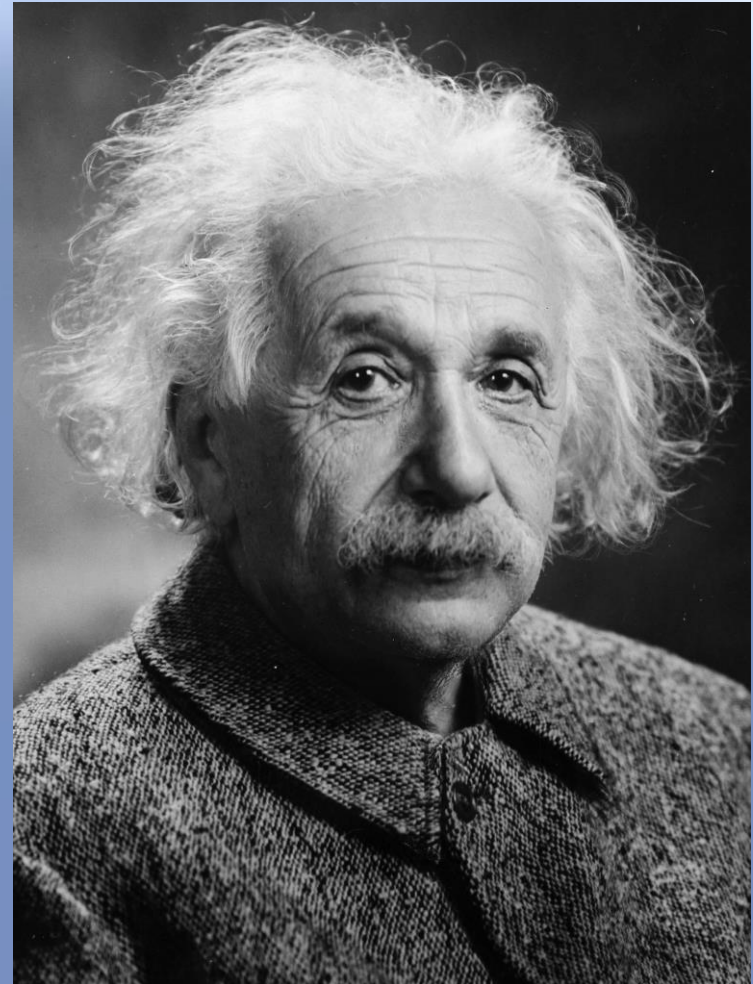
- **Neuroimaging + molecular approaches = Radiogenomics.**
- **Aneurysmal pathophysiology directly related to regional blood flow.**
- **Non-invasive analysis** of aneurysm morphology and hemodynamics.
- **Ferumoxytol-enhanced MRI.**
 - Aneurysmal inflammation.
 - Predicted instability and increased 6-month rupture risk.
 - Biomarker indicating more urgent intervention.
- **Diagnostic CSF biomarkers for vasospasm**
 - Endothelin-1
 - Interleukin-6
- **Personalized medicine protocols in treatment and prevention of vasospasm.**

Bright Side

- Improved survival over 30 years.
 - Reduced fatality from 50% to 20% in high volume centers.
- We can go beyond.

Super Scientific AND Inspirational Closing Quotes

- “I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.”
 - **Be curious.**
- “For us believing physicists, the distinction between past, present, and future is only a stubborn illusion.”
 - **Abandon illusions; actualize solutions.**



(Albert Einstein, n.d.; Turner, 1947)

Conclusion

- **Additional Resources**

- Neurocritical Care Society
 - www.neurocriticalcare.org
 - Family & Patient Resources > Stories of Hope
- Brain Aneurysm Foundation
 - www.bafound.org

- **Mahalo!**

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