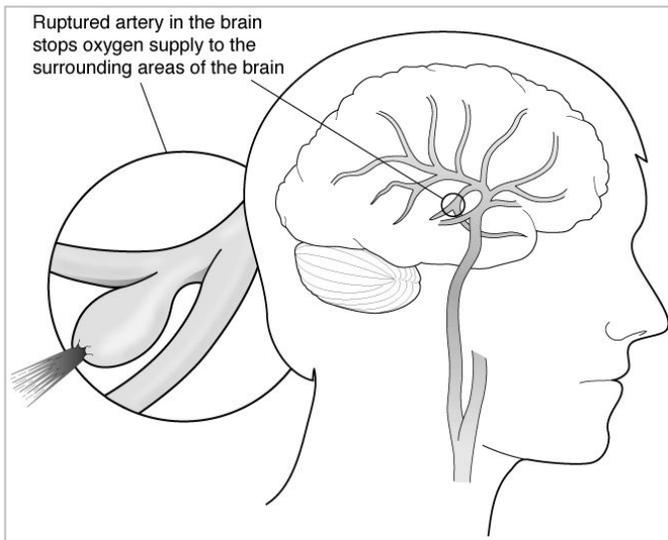


## Hemorrhagic Stroke

A hemorrhagic (hem-o-RAJ-ic) stroke happens when a weakened blood vessel leaks or ruptures and bleeds into the brain tissue around the leak. The ruptured vessel stops blood and oxygen supply for the area past the leak. This causes pressure and function changes to that area of the brain.



### Could I have had a hemorrhagic stroke?

You may need to have a series of tests before your doctor can tell if you had this type of stroke. The symptoms appear very quickly and may progress, leading to coma. Symptoms are a very severe headache, nausea, and vomiting. Other symptoms may include weakness on one side of the body, trouble speaking, vision problems, such as being sensitive to bright light, or loss of consciousness.

### Types of Hemorrhagic Stroke

**Subarachnoid hemorrhage:** This type of stroke occurs when a blood vessel on the surface of the brain ruptures and bleeds into the space between the brain and skull. The most common cause is a ruptured aneurysm caused by high blood pressure. Other causes are an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) which is a rupture of blood vessels that have not formed correctly, bleeding from a head injury or trauma, or venous or capillary problems.

**Intracerebral hemorrhage:** This type of stroke occurs when a blood vessel deep within the brain bleeds into the brain tissue. The most common cause of this type of stroke is high blood pressure. Other causes are injury and rupture of blood vessels that have not formed correctly (AVM).

### How are the strokes treated?

- **Surgery.** Sometimes, a neurosurgeon will put in a drain, repair a vessel, remove a clot, or repair an AVM.
- **Hospital care.** Since bleeding into the brain could lead to death, stroke patients may be watched closely in an intensive care unit (ICU).
- **Medicines.** They can be used to lower blood pressure and reduce swelling and pressure to the brain after a stroke.
- **Rehab.** It will help patients gain back independence. We provide tools and services which increase the number of things a person can do for themselves.
- **Prevention.** Doing all you can to prevent another stroke is a big part of treatment. See *Health Facts for You* #5736.

## **To Learn More**

- Ask your doctor, nurse or other healthcare provider for ways to lower your risk of stroke.
- Visit the American Stroke Association website at: [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org).
- Talk to your family. If someone in your family has had a stroke, you and other family members may be at higher risk. You should make changes now to lower your risk.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 10/2019 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#6298