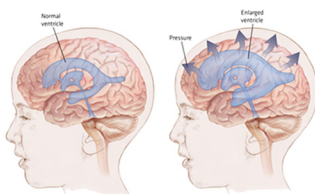


# WHAT IS HYDROCEPHALUS?

When an aneurysm rupture results in bleeding in the space between the brain and its surrounding tissue (subarachnoid hemorrhage), the blood can restrict circulation of the surrounding fluid and the spinal cord (cerebrospinal fluid - CSF). This condition can result in hydrocephalus, an excess of CSF that increases pressure on the brain and can damage tissues.

Hydrocephalus may be congenital or acquired. Congenital is present at birth and may be caused by events or influences that occurred during fetal development, or by genetic abnormalities.



Acquired hydrocephalus develops after birth when a tumor, injury or disease blocks the absorption of CSF.

## Causes

The causes are not well understood. Hydrocephalus may be the result of inherited genetic abnormalities or developmental disorders. Other causes include complications of premature birth, meningitis, tumors, traumatic head injury, or subarachnoid hemorrhage, all of which block the exit of CSF from the ventricles.

## Treatment

Hydrocephalus is most often treated by surgically inserting a shunt. The shunt diverts the flow of CSF from the Central Nervous System to another area of the body where it can be absorbed as part of the normal circulatory process.



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