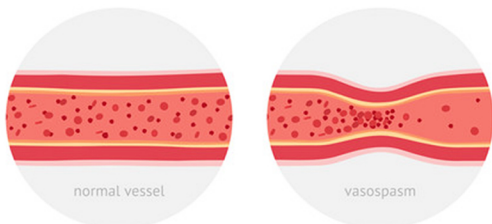


WHAT IS VASOSPASM?

Vasospasm is a common complication following aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage and occurs in nearly 50% of patients after bleeding takes place.



Vasospasm occurs when a nearby blood vessel goes into spasm and constricts. This causes the blood vessel to close down which can lead to possible brain damage or even death. Vasospasm narrows the inside diameter (lumen) of the artery and thereby reduces blood flow to that region of the brain, causing a secondary stroke.

Vasospasm typically develops 5-8 days after the initial hemorrhage and can last as long as 2 to 3 weeks. The effect can be mild, moderate, or severe depending on the degree of vasospasm and the patient's responsiveness to treatment.

Medicines are often used to elevate blood pressure to treat vasospasm.

The severity of vasospasm often relates to the amount of bleeding that occurred at the time of the original hemorrhage or during the development of subsequent hemorrhages. Some patients, particularly young, have strong and highly reactive muscles in their cerebral blood vessels that can severely narrow or even cut off blood flow in the major brain arteries.



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