

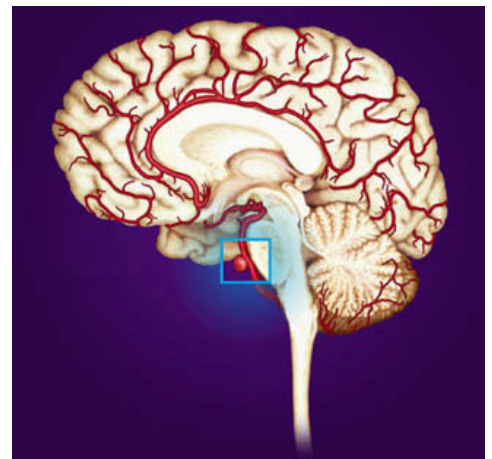


About LaLa Speaks Foundation (LSF)

Founded in June 2024, LaLa Speaks Foundation (LSF) is a Missouri-based 501(c)(3) organization committed to raising awareness and reducing the number of deaths caused by brain aneurysms through innovative research. LSF was established after Jacqueline Rhone, the daughter of the founder, tragically passed away from a ruptured brain aneurysm at the age of 39. The foundation's mission is to increase awareness of brain aneurysms and secure funding for preventive research that saves lives. LSF has partnered with Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation to establish the Jacqueline Rhone Brain Aneurysm Fund, focusing on building a strong donor and research community to advance significant brain aneurysm awareness and research initiatives.

What is a Brain Aneurysm?

A brain aneurysm, also referred to as a cerebral aneurysm or intracranial aneurysm (IA), is a weak bulging spot on the wall of a brain artery very much like a thin balloon or weak spot on an inner tube. Over time, the blood flow within the artery pounds against the thinned portion of the wall and aneurysms form silently from wear and tear on the arteries. As the artery wall becomes gradually thinner from the dilation, the blood flow causes the weakened wall to swell outward. This pressure may cause the aneurysm to rupture and allow blood to escape into the space around the brain. A ruptured brain aneurysm commonly requires advanced surgical treatment.



Symptoms of a Ruptured Brain Aneurysm

The most common symptom of a ruptured brain aneurysm is a sudden, severe headache, often described as the “worst headache of your life.” Other symptoms include: (1) nausea and vomiting; (2) stiff neck; (3) blurred or double vision; (4) sensitivity to light; (5) seizure; (6) a drooping eyelid; (7) loss of consciousness; and (8) confusion.

A CT scan of the head is one of the ways doctors diagnose a brain aneurysm. If the CT scan does not show the rupture, a lumbar puncture and angiogram are done. A lumbar puncture, or spinal tap, looks for blood in the fluid inside the spine. This fluid is called CSF, or cerebrospinal fluid. Blood in the fluid means there may be a subarachnoid hemorrhage.

Treatments for Ruptured Brain Aneurysm

Approximately 50 percent of ruptured brain aneurysms end in fatality. A ruptured brain aneurysm needs immediate medical attention, and the patient likely will need surgery. This surgery is called a clip ligation, which is when a metal clip is placed at the base of the aneurysm to control the bleeding and to decrease the risk of more bleeding, as more bleeding can cause more brain damage. Another procedure surgeons may suggest is endovascular embolization, which blocks the blood vessel so blood can no longer flow through it. Metal coils are packed into the aneurysm through a catheter inserted into the groin.



Americans Affected by Brain Aneurysms

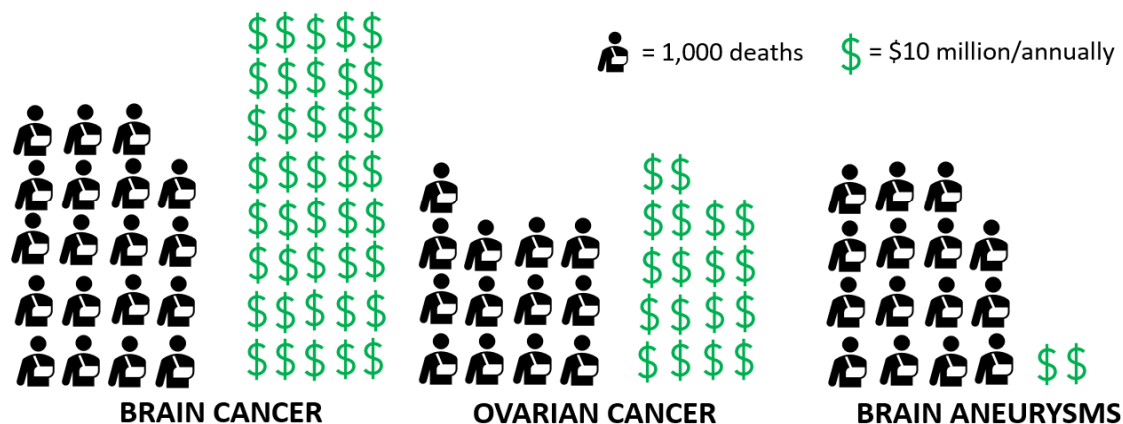
- ❖ An estimated **6.6 million people** in the United States, or **1 in 50 people**, have an unruptured brain aneurysm.
- ❖ The incidence rate of 1 in 50 people means that, on average, **15,200 constituents in each congressional district** are afflicted with this disease.
- ❖ Each year, an estimated **30,000 people** in the U.S. suffer a brain aneurysm rupture, **50 percent** of which are fatal.
- ❖ Brain aneurysms are **more likely to occur in women** than in men (by a 3 to 2 ratio) and more likely to rupture in **African-Americans** (2.1 to 1 ratio) and **Hispanics** (1.67 to 1 ratio) than Caucasians.
- ❖ Of those who survive, about **66 percent** suffer some permanent neurological deficit.
- ❖ Of the nearly 500,000 deaths worldwide each year caused by brain aneurysms, half of the victims are **younger than 50-years-old**.
- ❖ The annual estimated direct cost of brain aneurysm ruptures to U.S. patients is approximately **\$2 billion**, and the median expected patient payment is \$114,000.
- ❖ The Intensive Care Unit length of stay is the largest driver of cost for brain aneurysm ruptures, and estimates do not reflect indirect costs such as travel, food, childcare, and wage losses for patients and caretakers.

The Need for Research Funding

Despite the widespread prevalence of this condition, the federal government only spends **\$2.08 per year** on brain aneurysm research for each person affected by the disease. The federal government spends far more on many medical conditions with similar numbers of deaths each year.

Number of Deaths, Federal Funding in 2022

Brain Aneurysms, Brain Cancer, and Ovarian Cancer



Sources:

National Institutes of Health (NIH): "Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC)", FY2022. Updated as of March 31, 2023.
National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. Cancer Stat Facts: Ovarian Cancer; and Brain and Other Nervous System Cancer.

Resources to Learn More about Brain Aneurysms

- ❖ [Brain Aneurysm – Symptoms and Causes \(Mayo Clinic\)](#)
- ❖ [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke \(NINDS\)](#)