

Fast Facts

Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM)

- An abnormal tangle in the capillaries that can form in any part of the body
 - Most often happens in the brain or spine
- Disrupts the process of exchange of oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients and wastes that normally occurs
- Can weaken the walls of the affected arteries and veins, which can lead to them rupturing
 - Unknown cause
- If you have a family history of AVM, you have a greater chance of having it
 - Most types aren't inherited

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No symptoms unless it ruptures -External bleeding not the result of any injury -Progressive loss of neurological function -Headaches -Nausea/vomiting -Seizures -Loss of consciousness -Weak muscles -Paralysis (one part of body) -Loss of coordination -Problems walking -Problems performing tasks that require planning -Weakness in lower extremities -Back pain -Dizziness -Vision problems -Problems speaking or understanding what is being said -Numbness/tingling/sudden pain -Memory loss/dementia -Hallucinations -Confusion -Children/teenagers can have trouble learning or have behavioral problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitor and treat any symptoms with medications Surgery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Endovascular embolization -Stereotactic radiosurgery -Seek support from family and friends -Learn as much as possible about AVM -Join a support group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No way to prevent from occurring -Prevent rupture by being screened if at high risk -Get immediate medical attention if symptoms appear in order to prevent further complications

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