

# Aneurysm

## Stroke vs Aneurysm: What is the difference?

A stroke and an aneurysm are not the same thing. They are two very different medical health problems. Stroke is a process or an event that happens in your body, while an aneurysm is a problem with a person's anatomy (anatomical abnormality).

Signs and symptoms may differ between a burst aneurysm and a stroke. A sudden, extreme headache accompanying a burst aneurysm is the one symptom that is noticeably different.

*It is important to call for an ambulance if a person has any of these symptoms as both can be life-threatening.*

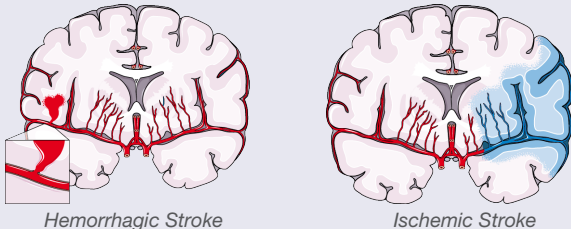
**They are a medical emergency.**

### Symptoms of a stroke

**Ischemic stroke:** An artery is blocked, and blood supply no longer reaches all the parts of the brain.

**Hemorrhagic stroke:** A blood vessel bursts or leaks, and blood enters parts of the brain where it would not normally be.

Most strokes happen because of a blocked artery.



**A person who is having a stroke may experience:**

- Drooping on one side of the face
- An inability to lift the arms
- Weakness or numbness in one arm
- Slurred speech or inability to talk
- Complete paralysis of the body along one side
- Sudden vision disturbance
- Dizziness
- Confusion or difficulty understanding other people
- Loss of balance or coordination
- Difficulty swallowing

A good way to recognise if someone is having a stroke is to remember F.A.S.T.

**F** = face drooping

**A** = arm weakness

**S** = speech difficulty

**T** = time to call an ambulance

### Symptoms of an aneurysm

An aneurysm is a bulge in an artery. It bulges because of a weakness in an artery wall. This makes the artery open to further weakening, and it could burst. Aneurysms vary in shape, size, and location. Aneurysms can affect any blood vessel. The most important aneurysms affect the biggest artery leaving the heart and the arteries in the brain.

Aneurysms that have not burst do not tend to produce symptoms. Symptoms are likely to appear only if the size of the bulge is large. Then the aneurysm has a high risk of bursting.

Anyone with a diagnosis of a brain aneurysm who develops symptoms should seek medical help as soon as possible, as treatment may prevent a burst.

**A burst aneurysm in the brain usually causes:**

- An extreme "thunderclap" headache
- Vomiting
- Stiff neck
- Sensitivity to light
- Collapse, seizure, or coma

**An intact brain aneurysm may produce symptoms such as:**

- Vision problems, such as double vision
- Pain above or around the eye
- An enlarged pupil in the eye
- Weakness or numbness of the face
- Headaches
- Loss of balance
- Speaking difficulties
- Problems with thinking

Survival of both depends on a number of factors, including age, general health, and how quickly the person receives medical care.

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This site is for all who are survivors, sufferers, know someone suffering, or supporting someone with an Aneurysm, to share their story and support.

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We hope we can help in some small way.