Explanation and Treatment of Cerebral Aneurysms by Brian Hoh

A board-certified neurosurgeon, Brian Hoh, MD, is program director of neurosurgery at the University of Florida. Dr. Brian Hoh also specializes in and conducts research on cerebral aneurysms funded by the [National Institutes of Health](http://www.nih.gov/‎) (NIH).  
  
A cerebral aneurysm is a weak portion of a blood vessel in the brain that enlarges and fills with blood. Placing pressure on surrounding tissues, these enlarged blood vessels have the potential to rupture, leading to serious complications. Aneurysms can be caused by congenital abnormalities or can result from head trauma, high blood pressure, vascular diseases, drug use, tumors, or infection. Small aneurysms typically do not produce symptoms, but large aneurysms can lead to headaches and numbness or pain on one side of the face. Nausea and vomiting are also common, as are vision problems.  
  
Some aneurysms can be treated by monitoring their growth and addressing risk factors and other related medical problems, without the need for surgical intervention. Some aneurysms with a high risk of rupture can be treated using both surgical and nonsurgical procedures.