# The characteristic warning signs of headache associated with cerebral aneurysm

In this issue a special attention is drawn to the possibility that a headache may be caused by an unruptured intracranial aneurysm, a vascular lesion with a high risk of causing a catastrophic intracranial hemorrhage[1]. Up to 10% of the population will develop an intracranial aneurysm during their lifetime. As a result, its clinical manifestations, such as headache, need to be studied in depth[2].

The literature is still scanty regarding the unruptured aneurysm, even though a considerable amount of information can be found on the headache induced by a rupture of an intracranial aneurysm[3]. An intracranial aneurysm may trigger a headache manifestation through different mechanisms, e.g. direct compression of pain-sensitive intracranial structures and sudden saccular expansion[2,4].

Aneurysms sometimes trigger pain simulating primary headaches, such as tension-type headache, stabbing headache or cluster headache[5,6]. Thus, in a patient with a recent onset of headache, a headache beginning after the age of 50, or triggered by head movements or Valsalva's maneuver, or when the pain is located on the same side of the head (lock-in headache), an investigation must be conducted in order to rule out the possibility of a cerebral aneurysm being the cause[2].

The readers will also find several other articles dealing with migraine and the triggering food factors, cross-cultural adaptation of the Brazilian Portuguese version of Quality of Life Headache-Youth (QLH-Y) Questionnaire and the relationship between fybromialgia and Headache.

## References


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