

Etiologies of thunderclap headache

Most common causes of thunderclap headache:
Subarachnoid hemorrhage
Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndromes (RCVS)
Conditions that less commonly cause thunderclap headache:
Cerebral infection (eg, meningitis, acute complicated sinusitis)
Cerebral venous thrombosis
Cervical artery dissection
Spontaneous intracranial hypotension
Acute hypertensive crisis
Posterior reversible leukoencephalopathy syndrome (PRES)
Intracerebral hemorrhage
Ischemic stroke
Conditions that uncommonly or rarely cause thunderclap headache:
Pituitary apoplexy
Colloid cyst of the third ventricle
Acute myocardial infarction
Aortic arch dissection
Aqueductal stenosis
Brain tumor
Giant cell arteritis
Pheochromocytoma
Pneumocephalus
Retroclival hematoma
Spinal epidural hematoma
Varicella zoster virus vasculopathy
Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome
Disputed causes of thunderclap headache:
Sentinel headache (unruptured intracranial aneurysm)*
Primary thunderclap headache [¶]

* Sentinel headache due to an unruptured intracranial aneurysm is a possible cause of thunderclap headache, but supporting data are weak.

¶ There is controversy as to whether thunderclap headache can occur as a benign and potentially recurrent headache disorder in the absence of underlying organic intracranial pathology.

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