

ACUTE INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE (ICH)

Also known as a brain bleed

RECOGNITION & RISK ASSESSMENT



Signs and Symptoms

- Severe headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Neck stiffness (subarachnoid hemorrhage, “SAH”)
- Rapid loss of consciousness
- Loss of vertical gaze
- Behavior change disproportionate to any motor deficit
- Extreme elevation of systolic blood pressure (>200 mm Hg)
- Seizures

Vascular Risk Factors

- Ischemic stroke
- Prior ICH
- Hypertension
- Hyperlipidemia
- Diabetes
- Metabolic syndrome

Medications/ Drugs That Place a Person at Risk for ICH

- *Antithrombotic: Anticoagulants* (Apixaban, Rivaroxaban, Warfarin, Pradaxa), **thrombolytics, antiplatelet agents** (aspirin, clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor), **NSAIDs** (ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac, celecoxib, including dose and time of last ingestion)
- *Vasoconstrictive agents: Triptans, SSRIs* (citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline), **decongestants, stimulants, phentermine, sympathomimetic drugs**
- *Antihypertensives* (an indication of chronic hypertension)
- Estrogen-containing oral contraceptives
- Smoking, ETOH, Cocaine, Marijuana, Meth, other illicit drugs