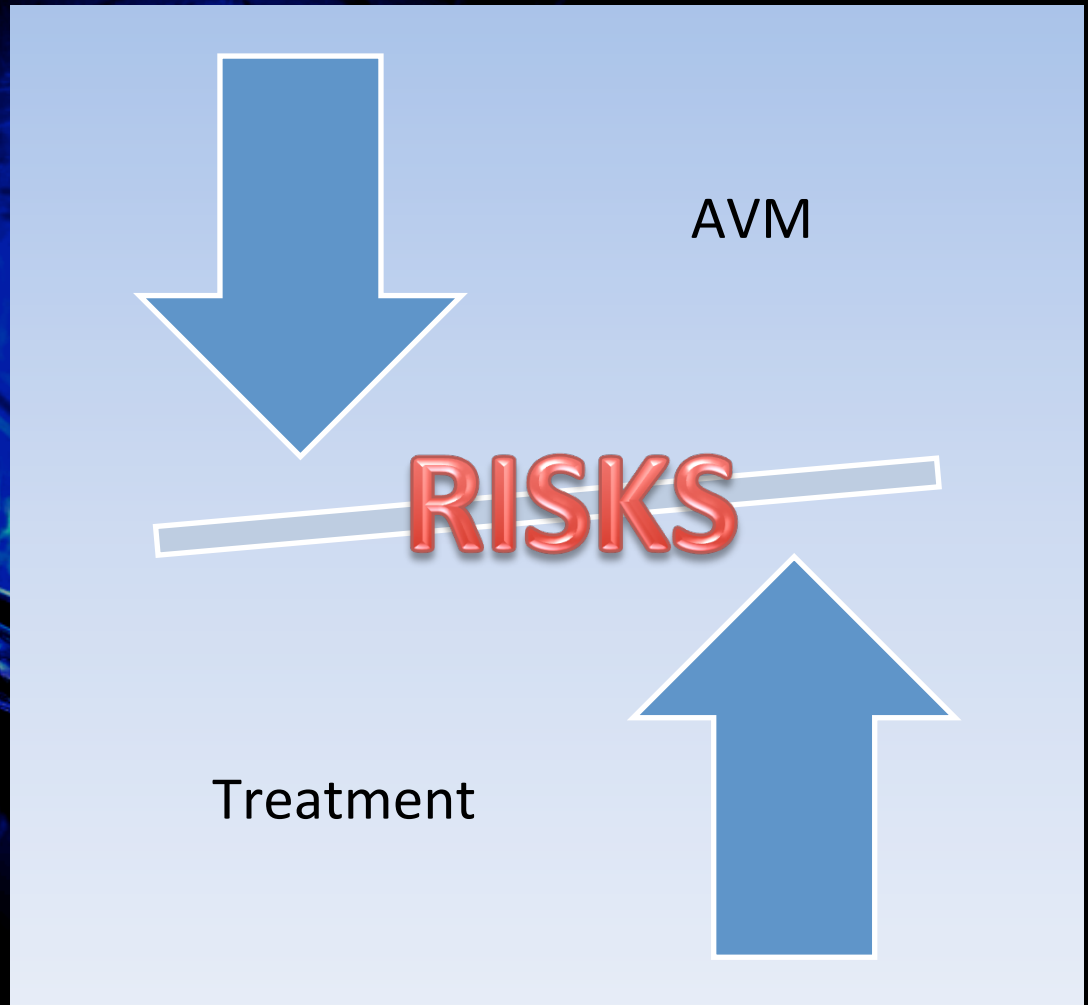


The background of the slide features a dark, high-contrast image of a human skull. A central, glowing blue and white area on the forehead represents a brain scan or a specific anatomical feature. Radiating lines emanate from the skull, creating a sense of depth and focus.

# CRANIAL AVM- NATURAL HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT

# NATURAL HISTORY OF AVM

- Risk benefit analysis pertaining to treatment needs to be done.





# Natural History

Dynamic  
change

Enlarge in  
young

Evident  
when  
decompensate

# Natural history

Spontaneous obliteration = Rare

Factors

Single feeder  
(30%)

<3cm size (50%)

Single vein (84%)

# AVM symptoms and progression

2-4% of AVM are incidental

Hemorrhag-65-72%

Supratent.  
Large  
Superficial  
F'/T' lobe  
MCA feeder

Seizure 15-35%

Headache (15% of unruptured )

D/D= Migraine

Neurologic deficits  
<10%

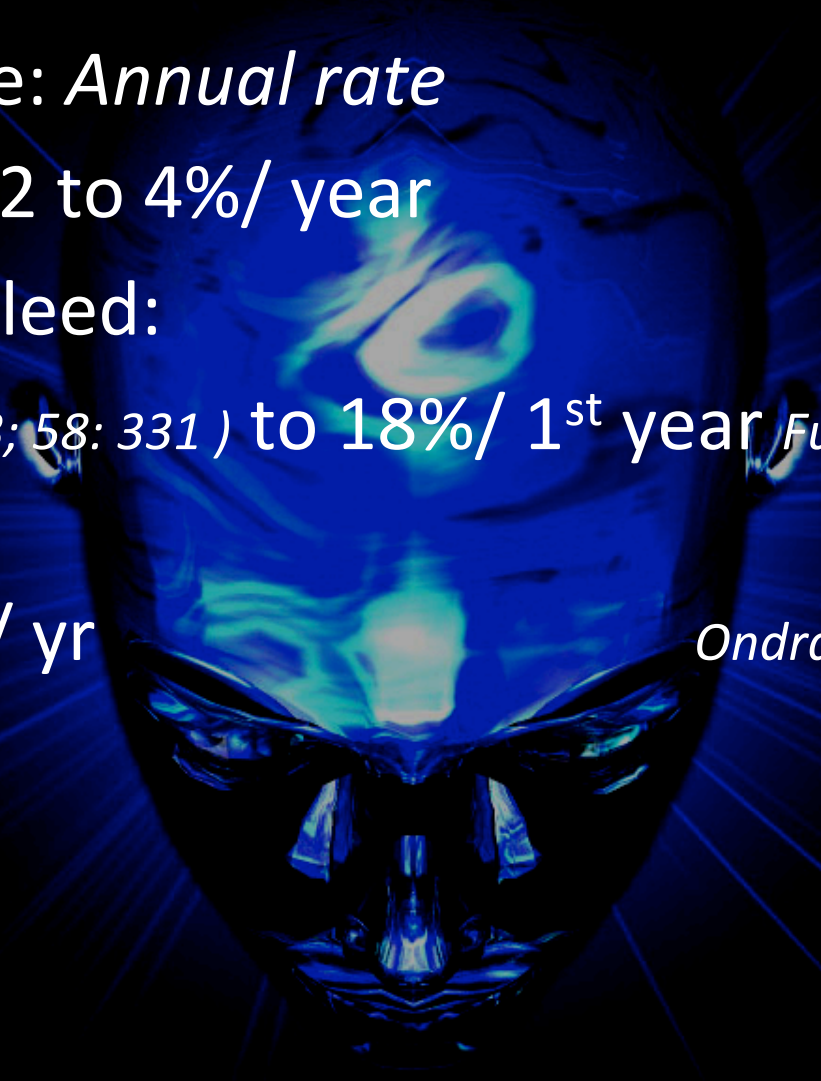
Subclinical Learning disorder in upto 66%  
Risk of Progression = Size+ shunt characteristics

# Presentation

- Hemorrhage: *Annual rate*
- First bleed: 2 to 4%/ year
- Recurrent bleed:

6% *Graf (JNS 1983; 58: 331 )* to 18%/ 1<sup>st</sup> year *Fults (Neurosurgery 1984; 15: 658 )*

Constant: 4%/ yr *Ondra (JNS 1966; 25: 467 )*



# Factors for risk of rupture



RISK HIGHEST IN  
THE FIRST YEAR AFTER  
PREVIOUS RUPTURE

J NEUROSURG.2007 NOV;107:965-72

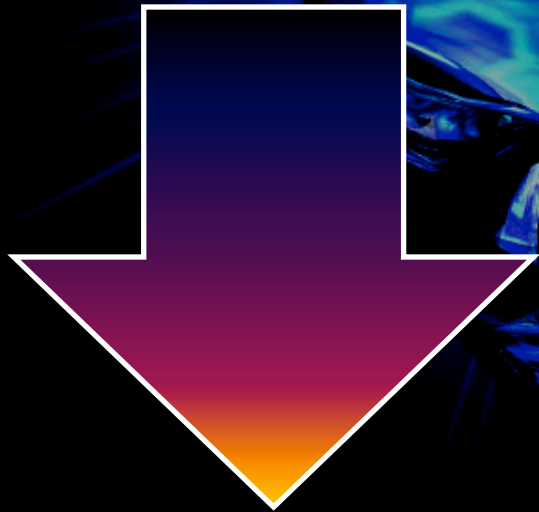
# Other Factors



Venous stenosis

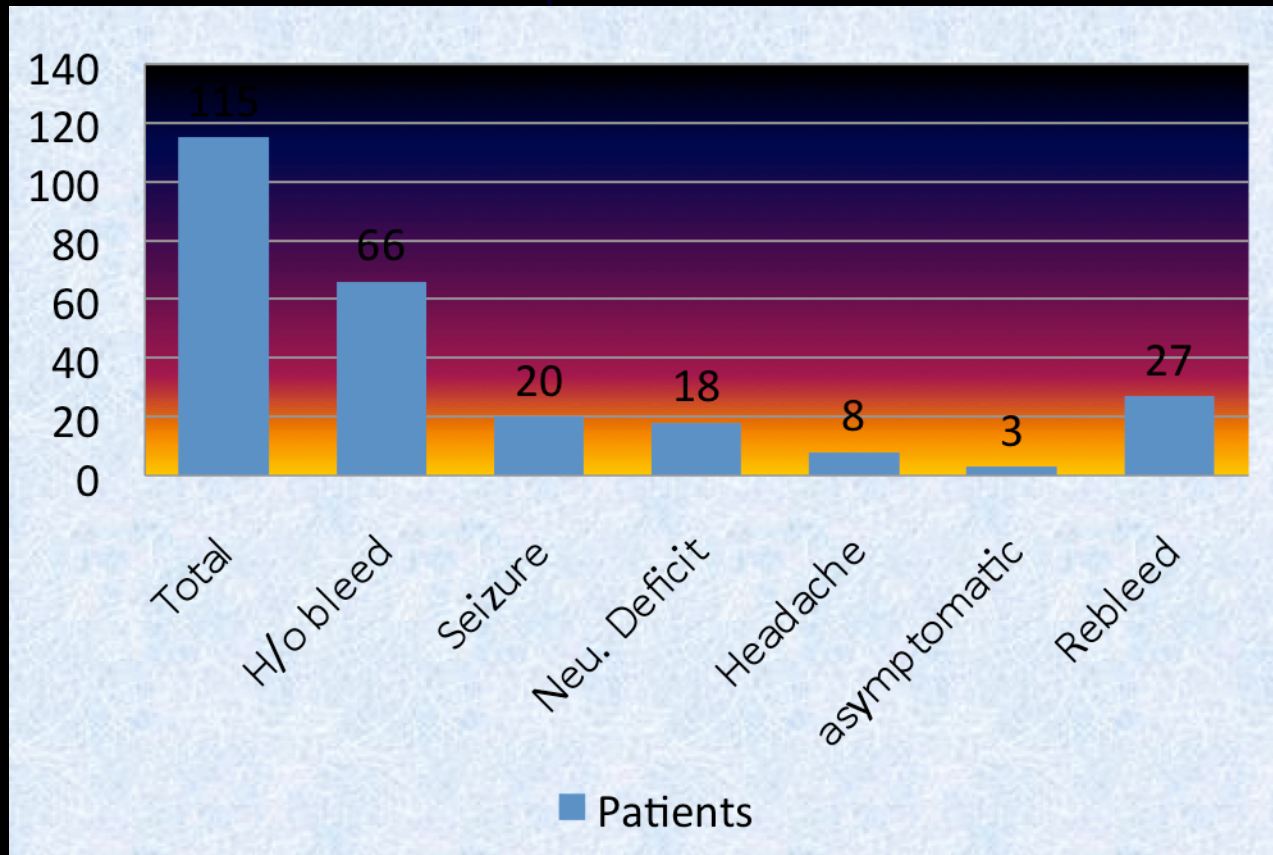
Single vein

High feeding art pressure



Arterial stenosis





**Higher rebleed rate in hemorrhagic & seizure group**  
**Survival rate=84%; mortality = 1.4%/ year**



**Risk of developing  
hemorrhage?**

**$[1 - (\text{risk of no hemorrhage})]^n$**

**$n = \text{expected years of life.}$**



# AVM and aneurysms



## Flow related

Saccular  
Along Arteries  
Males  
40% bleed

## Unrelated

AKA Dysplastic  
Remote to AVM  
Females

## Intranidal

Within AVM nidus  
72 % bleed

Incidence=2.7 – 23% of all AVM

With definitive Tt. distal flow art aneurysms are most likely to regress.

Proximal aneurysms rarely change.

# AVM in Pregnancy



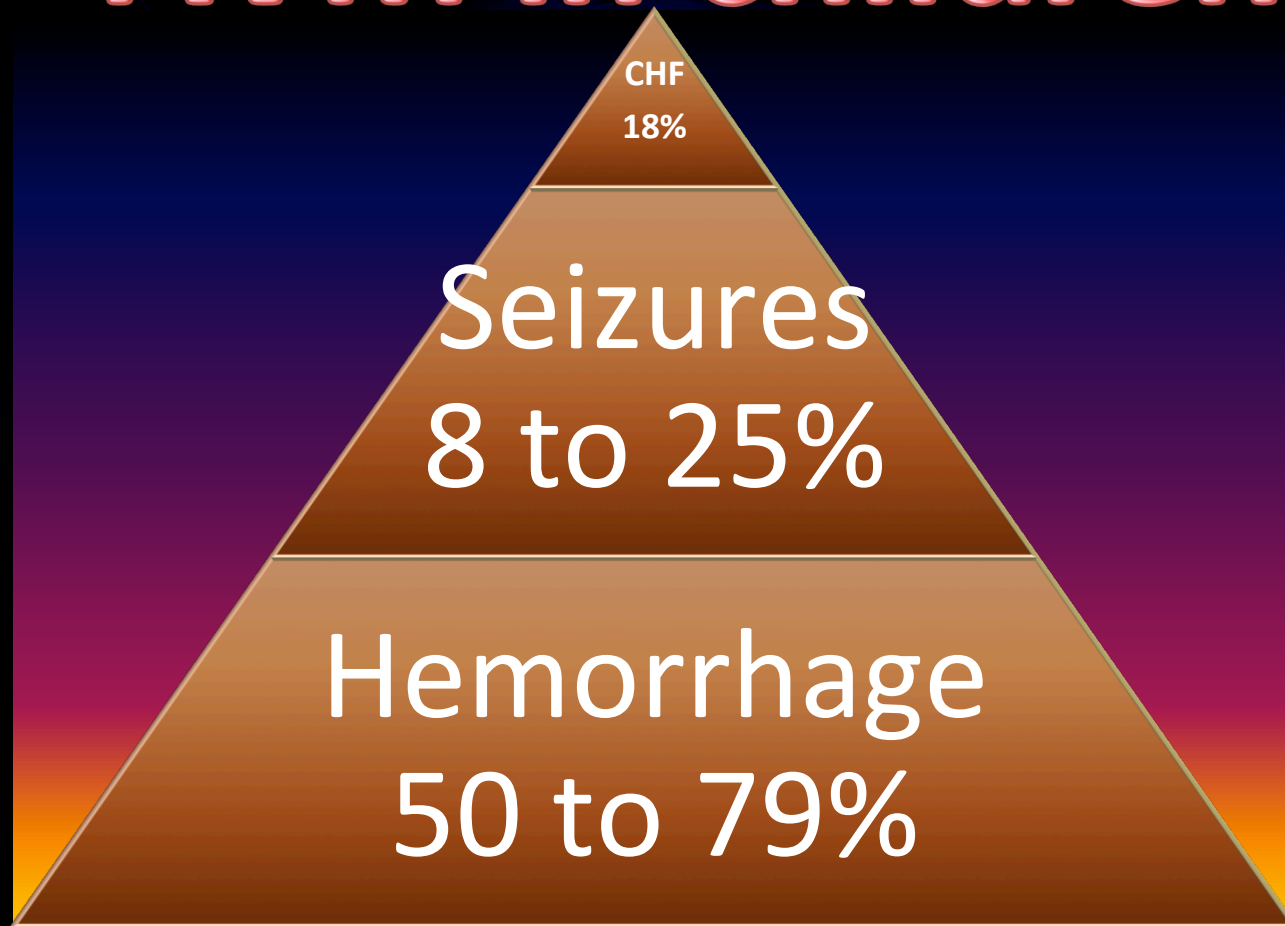
Cerebral Bleed d/t AVM/Aneurysm = 0.01-0.05%

Controversial whether bleed rate increases

Hemorrhage rate = 3.5% to 87%??

Fetal Death Rate = 26%

# AVM in children



**Males/Superficial/ Smaller/Higher Mortality  
Better Recovery (72-81%)**

# Outcome

Long term disability 23%

**Higher mortality in Post Fossa**

**Mortality associated with  
initial symptomatic hemorrhage  
is 6% to 29%**





**Imaging**

**Preoperative**

**Postoperative**

**Diagnosis**

**+**

**Evaluation**

**of status**

**Decision making**


# Treatment options

- 
- 1 Surgery
  2. Gamma Knife
  3. Embolisation

# Observation



- Thalamic and basal ganglia > 6 cm
- Intrinsic brainstem AVM > 2.5 cm
- Elderly grade 4-5



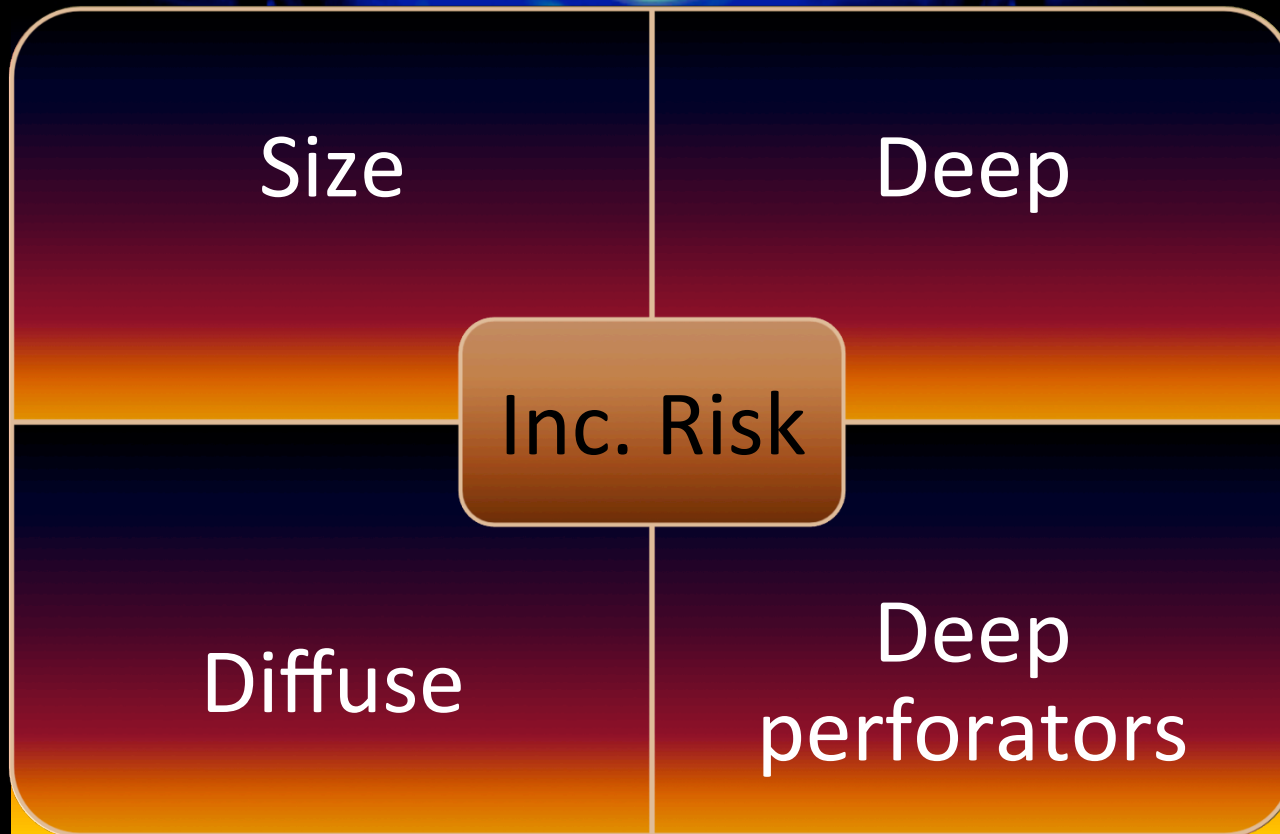
**“There is likely to be a single best management pathway, consumer approach by the patient will greatly increase the risk.”**

**Skill levels of doctor influence the pathway**

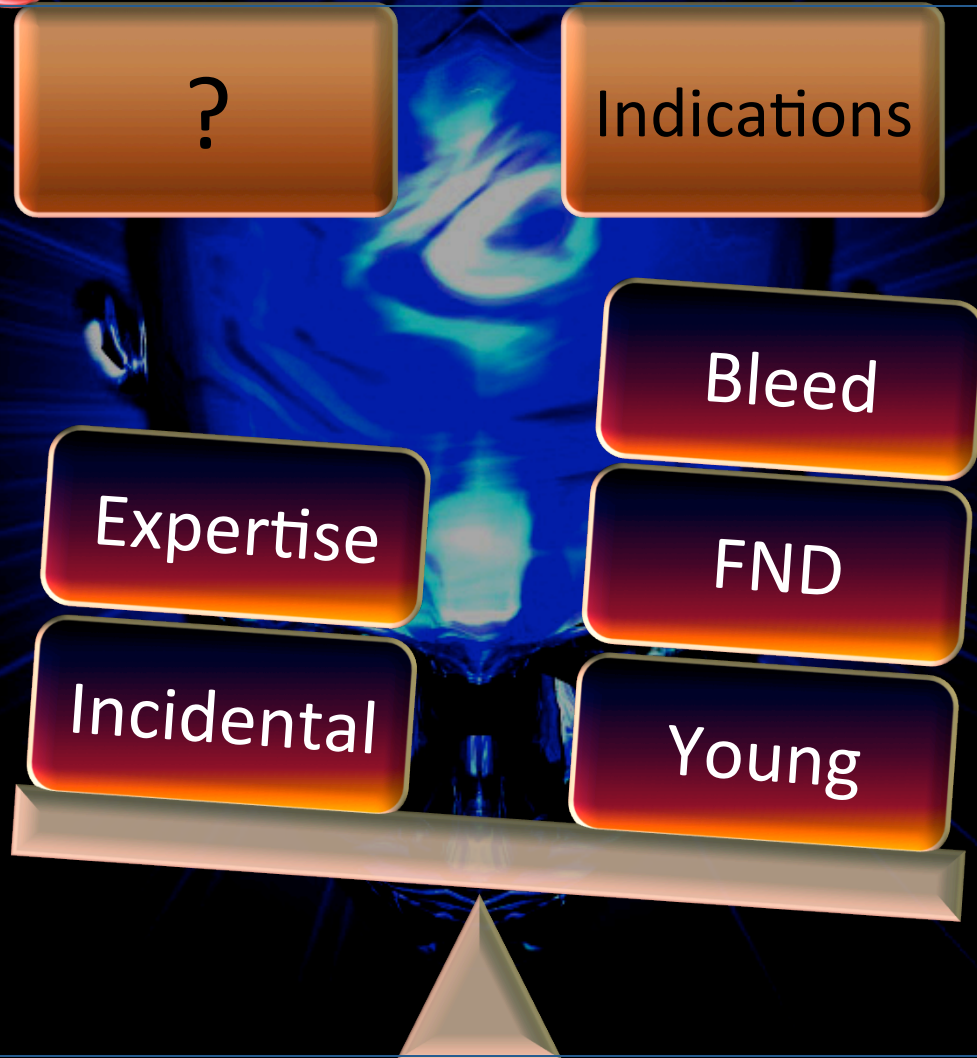


# Microsurgery

- Most effective Treatment
- Not all AVM are amenable



# Surgical decision making



# Microsurgical Technique

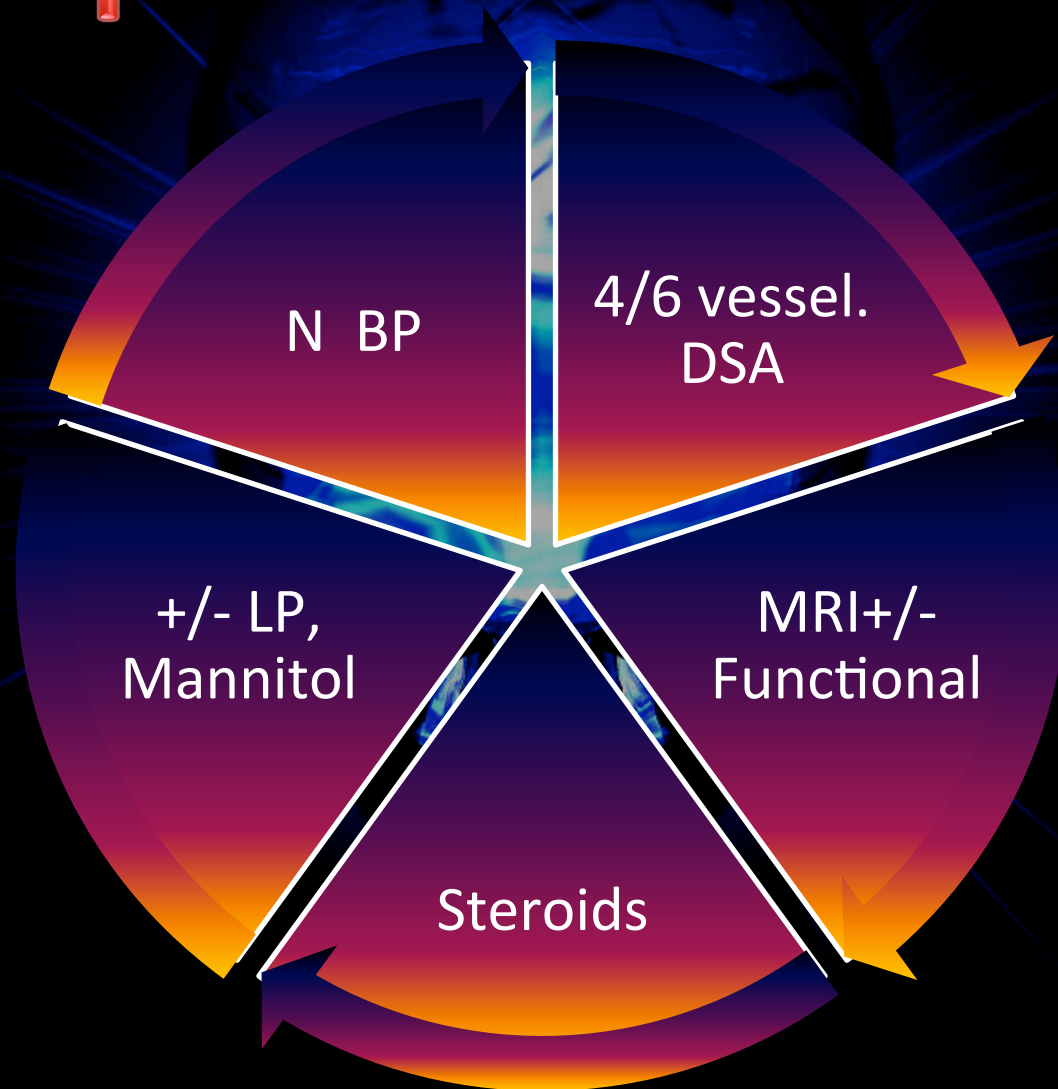
## Timing

- Elective surgery
- Emergency= Hematoma
- Spontaneous recovery do occur.  
(deep/eloquent)



# Microsurgical Technique

## Preoperative Measures





# Microsurgical Technique

## Craniotomy

- **Positioning- gravity must aid retraction**
- **Wide craniotomy aids retraction and helps in identifying feeders.**
- **Dura is opened towards the major draining sinus.**



# Microsurgical Technique

## Dissection Steps



Identify the AVM

Eliminate sup. Feeding arteries

Circumferential nidus  
dissection

Control of deep  
art + Vein

Removal +  
hemostasis

# Microsurgical Technique

## Identification of AVM

- Follow the red arterialized vein
- Stereotaxy and USG



# Microsurgical Technique

## Eliminating feeders

- Sulci around AVM can be opened and feeders identified and traced to AVM
- If required a temporary clip can be placed, vein collapses but artery continues to pulsate.



# Microsurgical Technique

## Circumferential dissection of nidus

- Be close to AVM.
- Gliotic plane may exist.
- Hemoclip should be applied on feeders larger than 1.5mm.

# Microsurgical Technique

## Dissection of apex and deep feeders

- Deep feeders need to be coagulated
- Do not pack bleeding from these vessels
- Microclips can be used

# Microsurgical Technique

## Venous drainage transection

- At least one major draining vein should be preserved till end of dissection.
- At the end of dissection this vein becomes bluish proving that feeders have been eliminated.

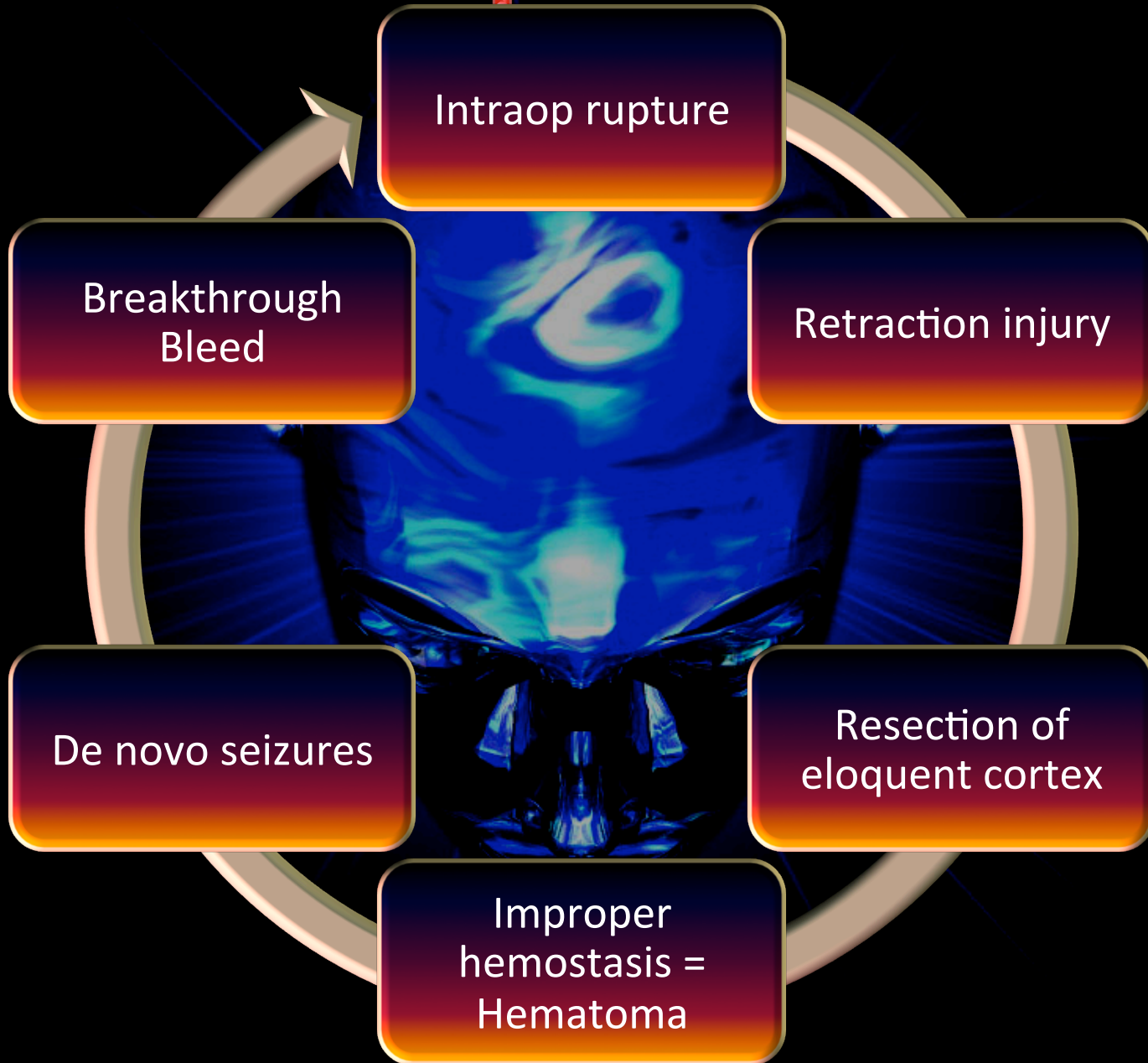


# Microsurgical Technique

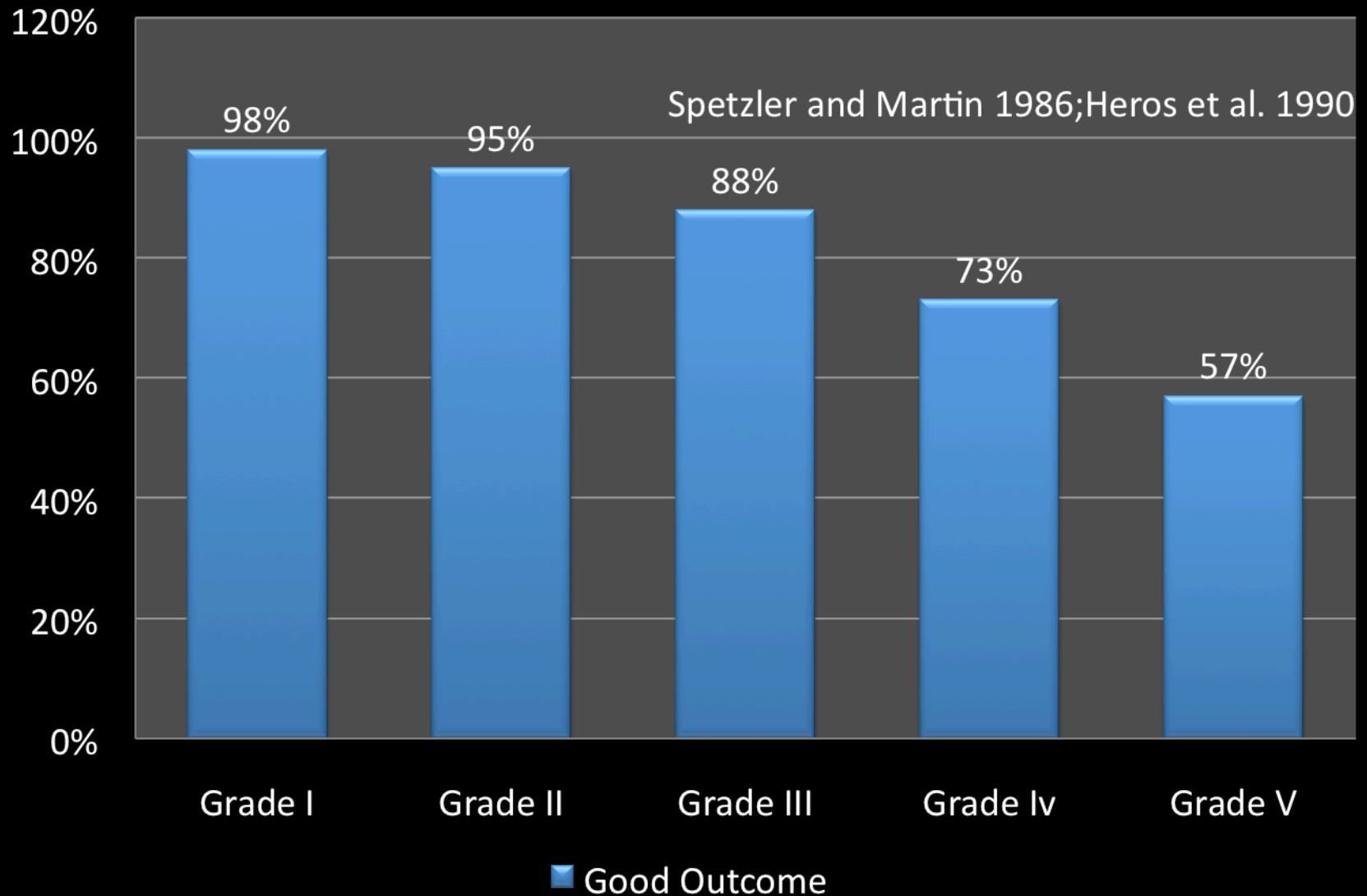
## Hemostasis

- Complete hemostasis at all times & after each single step.
- Bleeding from the wall by gentle rubbing from cottonoid may indicate residual AVM
- After achieving hemostasis BP must not rise for next 24 hrs.

# Complications



# Microsurgical outcome

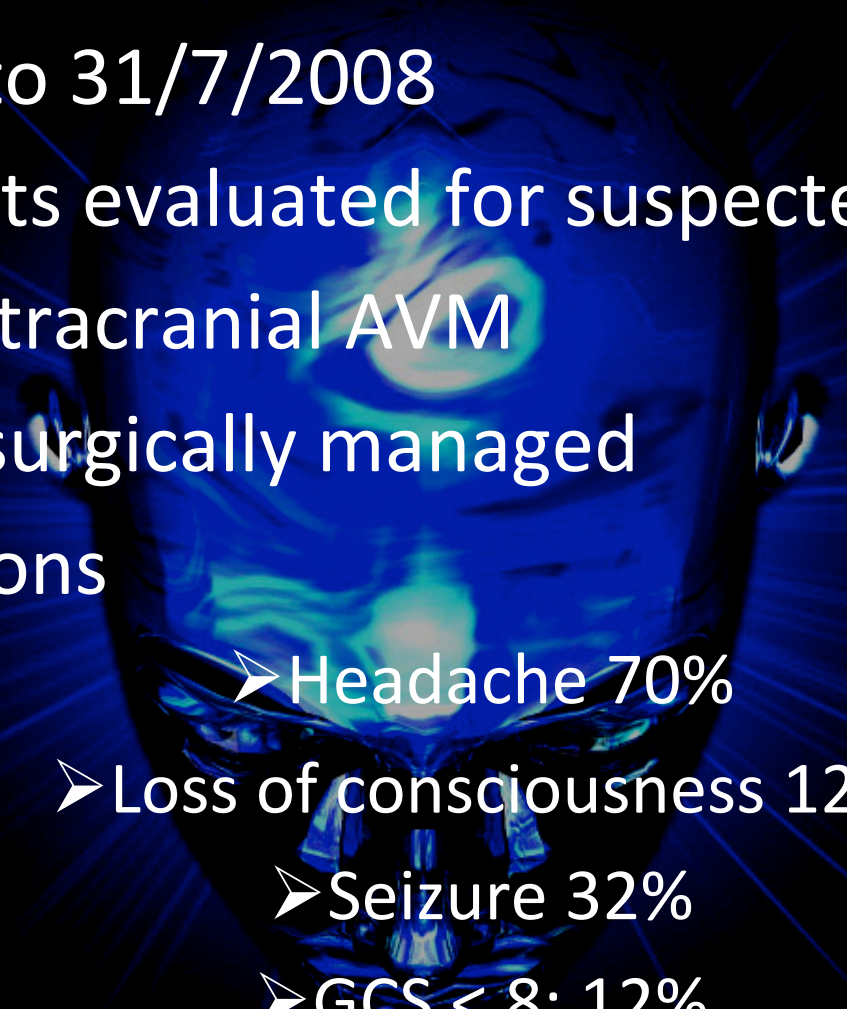


# Review of Literature

- **Meta- analysis of all series of more than 50 patients published since 1990 (25 series, 2452 patients ) [ Castel and Kantor 2000]**
- **Global mortality 0- 15% (Mean 3.3%)**
- **Post op morbidity 1.5-18.7% (Mean =8.6%)**
- **Small Superficial AVM have low morbidity (1.5 -9.7%) *Pik and Margan 2000, Schaller 1998.***
- **Deep seated = high morbidity 17% -25%.  
[ *Lawson 1995, De Oliveira 1997, Sasaki 1998*]**



# AIIMS series

- 
- 1/1/2000 to 31/7/2008
  - 868 patients evaluated for suspected AVM
  - 790 had intracranial AVM
  - 111 were surgically managed
  - Presentations
    - Headache 70%
    - Loss of consciousness 12%
      - Seizure 32%
      - GCS  $\leq$  8: 12%



Location	Frontal	31%
	Temporal	14%
	Parietal	9%
	Cerebellar	13%
	Brain stem	1%
Spetzler Martin Grade	I	14%
	II	40%
	III a	9%
	III b	19%
	IV	16%
Size of AVM	V	2%
	<3cm	16%
	3-6cm	47%
Location of bleed-	>6cm	1%
	Lobar	55%
	Intraventricular bleed	10%
Associated findings on IADSA	SAH	7%
	Aneurysm	12%
	Cavernoma	1%

# Embolization

**First described by Lussenhope and  
Spence in 1960**

**In some used as a sole Tt. Modality  
In rest = Adjunct to Surgery/GK**

# Clinico-morphologic Analysis

**Pt. Factors**

Young age +Elderly

Hemorrhage

Neurologic deficits

± SEIZURE/ Headache

?

Females

Pregnancy

# Clinico-morphologic Analysis

Cerebral Angiography

Aneurysm

Venous thrombosis

Venous hypertension

Outflow compromise



# Clinico-morphologic Analysis

## Cerebral Angiography

“Unlike surgical consideration  
Location/size /Deep venous drainage  
are a minor concern for a  
endovascular surgeon”





**Associated aneurysm**

**SAH present**

**ICH present**

**Tt aneurysm first**

**Tt AVM first**

**Proximal aneurysms rarely bleed.**

**In follow up if aneurysm  
has no regression then treat actively.**

# *Aims of embolization*

Curative

Palliative

Partial

Pre-op

Pre- GK

# Curative Embolization

**Do not use resorbable material or particles**

**FU angio at 6/12/24 mths -  
recanalization/ recruitment**

**Complete cure = 10 to 40%**

**Favored in – limited arterial feeders +  
sulcal & deep extrinsic AVM.**

# Targeted / Palliative Embolization

**Aim is to reestablish the equilibrium.  
Partial /targeted embo may be sufficient.  
Target= Weakness of angio-architecture.  
Reduction in venous HT is the goal.**



# Preoperative Embolization



- Eliminate deep arterial feeder.
- Occlude high flow intranidal fistula.
- Size reduction
- Obliteration of aneurysms.
- N butyl cyanoacrylate > PVA
- Surgery – Ideally after 1 to 3 weeks.

# Pre radio surgery

- Size reduction
- Targeted embolization for angio abn.  
like aneurysms, venous outflow  
restriction
- NBCA is the material of choice.
- Repeat Angio before RT .

# Principles of Embolization

- Pre procedure steroids and anti epileptics
- Generally under GA
- Super selective catheter placement (flow guided)
- Embolic agent dilution (Lipiodol + Tantalum)
- Staging of the procedure.
- Post operative BP control.



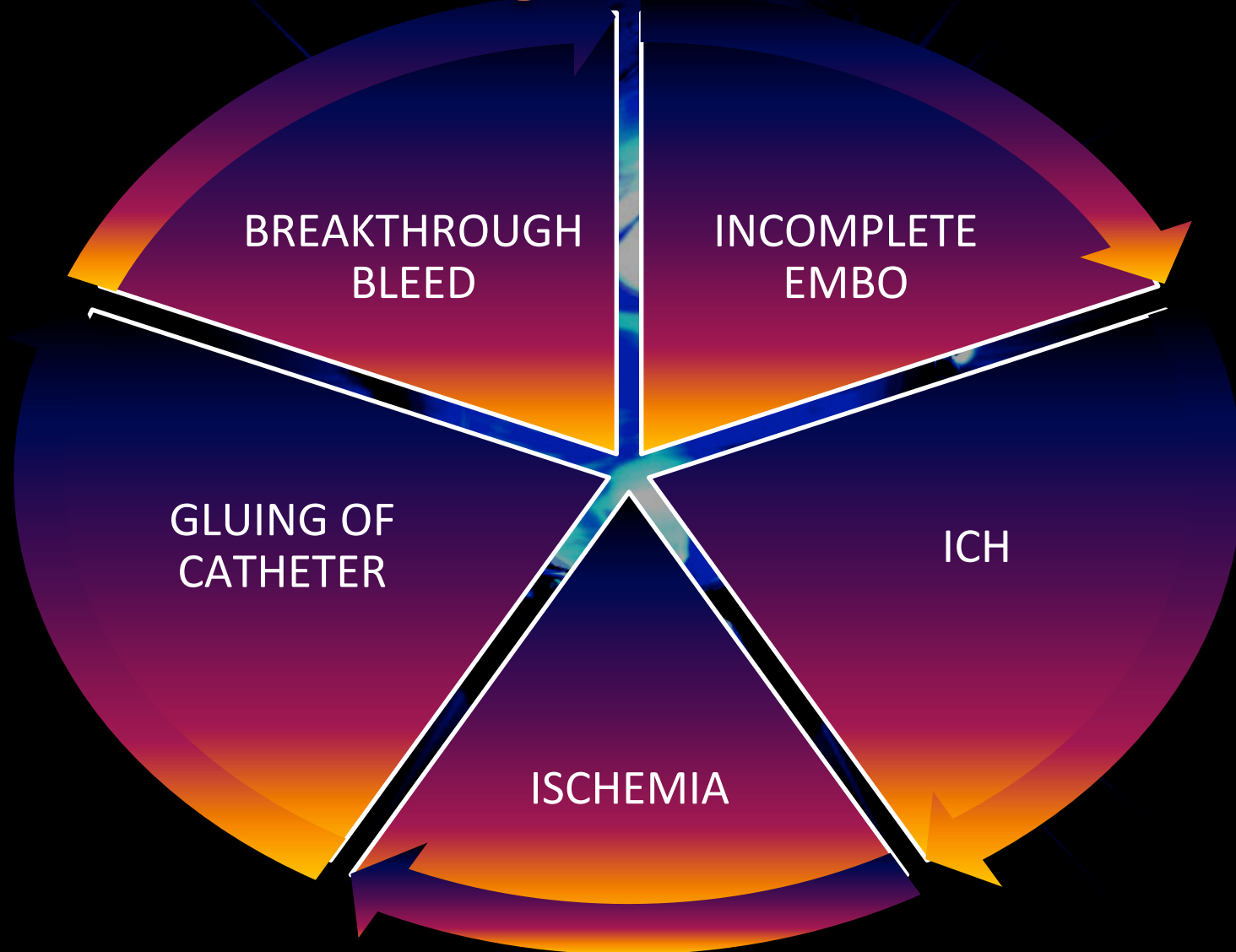
# Onyx



- Nonadhesive
- Di methyl sulfoxide + Ethylene vinyl alcohol polymer and tantalum.
- Intranidal catheter placement is needed
- Easily injected, prolonged injection times are common.



# Complications



# Embolization Outcome

- Complete obliteration = 10 – 40%
- Staging may be needed.
- Gobin et al (1996) 11% obliteration rate
- Bernstein et al (1990) 17%

# AIIMS series

**TCD evaluation of Blood flow velocity changes  
In basal cerebral arteries in cerebral AVMs following  
embolization and surgery**

**Neurology India 2000, 48:112-115**

**SK Tyagi, Ak Mahapatra, N.K. Mishra**

**“Decrease in blood flow velocity has  
been observed after embolization and surgery”**

# radiosurgery



- Cushing first to advocate RT
- Currently GK (cobalt 60),  
Linac or proton beams used.
- It is rationale to wait for GK till clot  
resolution or evacuation as nidus might  
be hidden in the clot.



# **Radio-surgery**

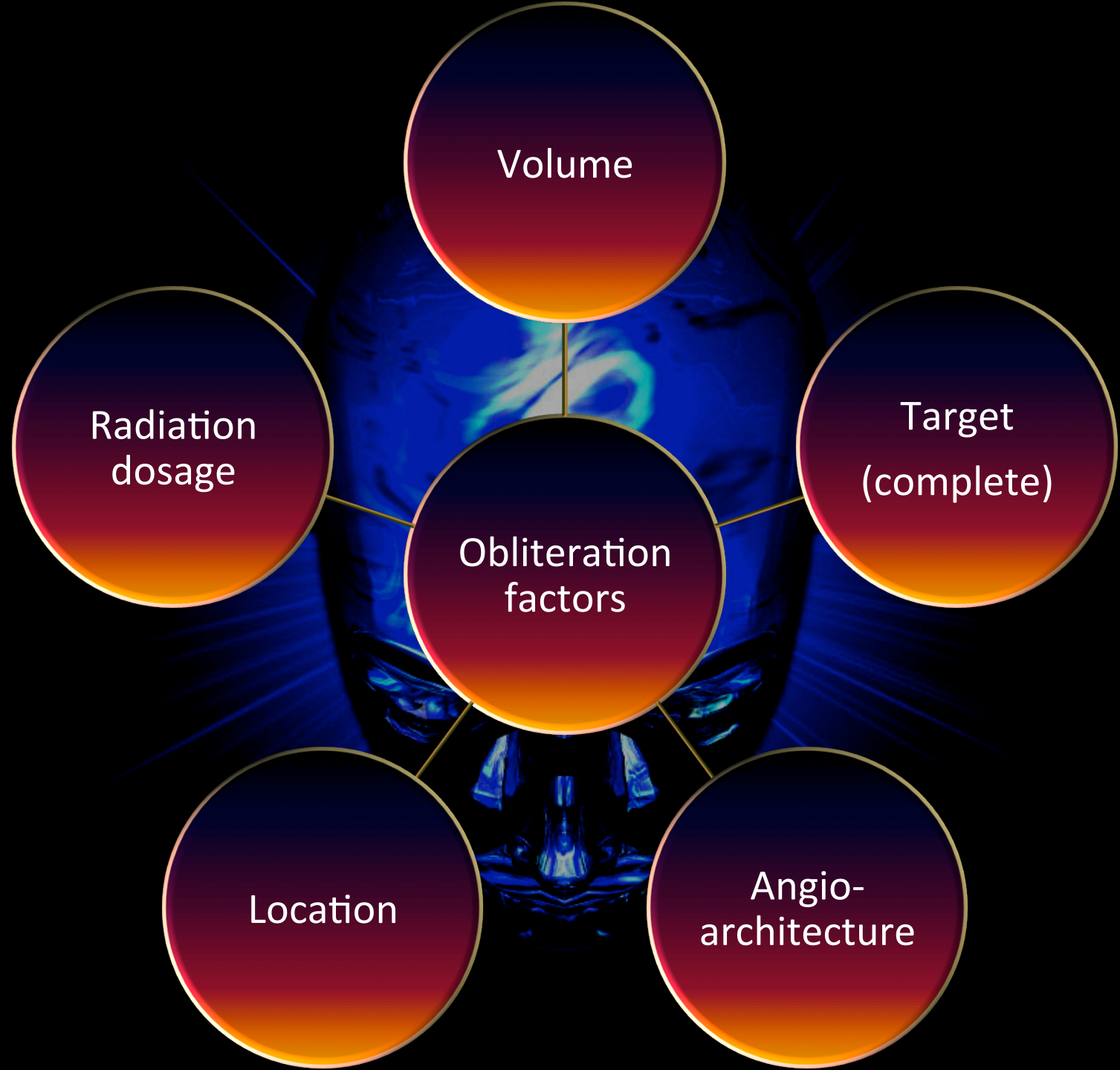
**Radiation dose causes**

**Endothelial damage**

**Smooth muscle cell proliferation**

**Progressive sclerosis**

**Thrombosis of nidus channels**



# Drawbacks of Radiosurgery

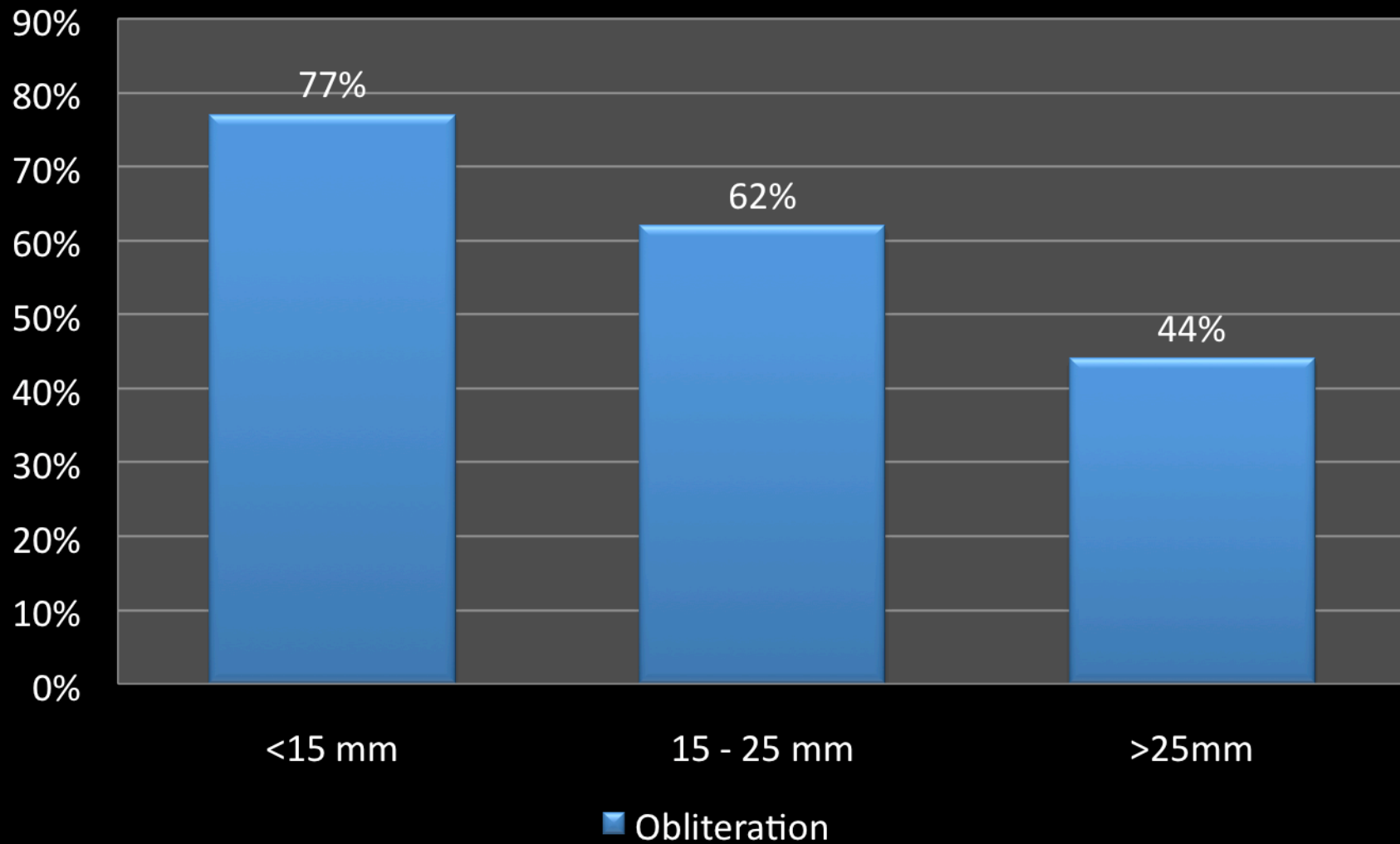


Radiation necrosis

Individual radiosensitivity

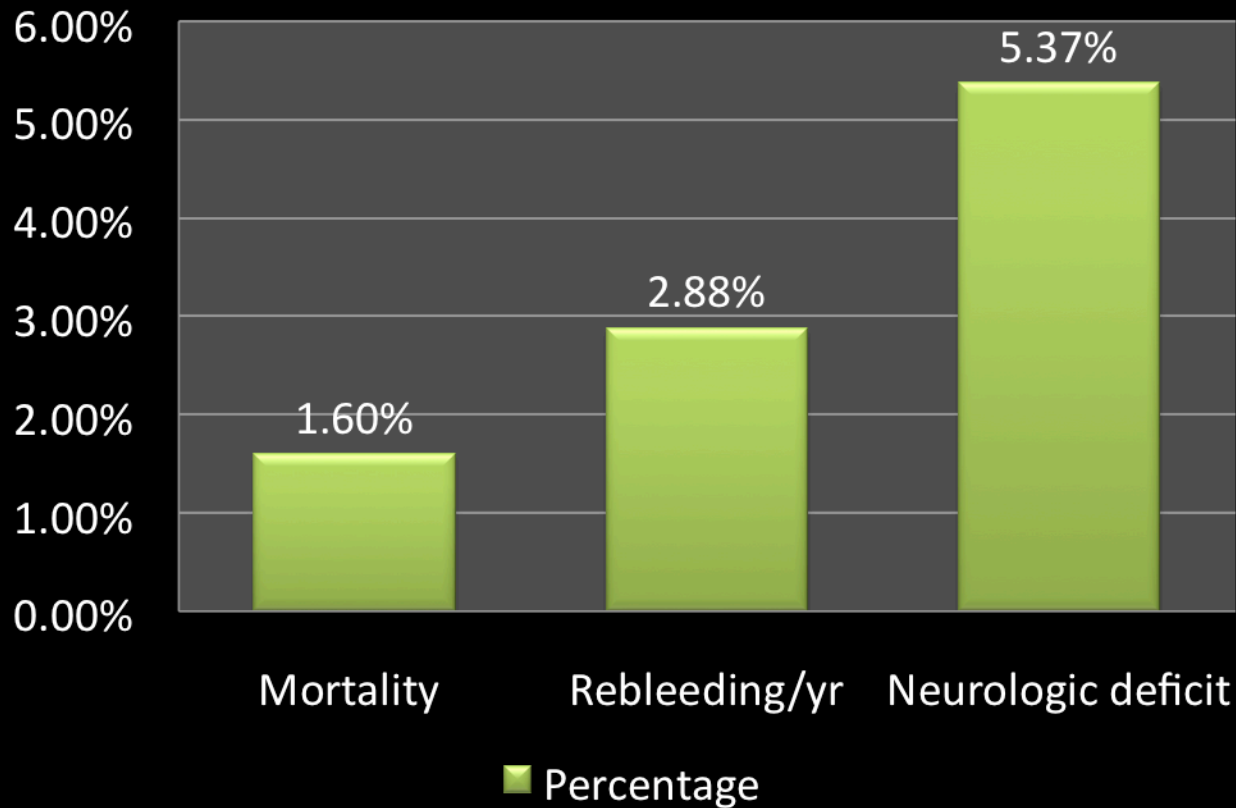
Latency

# Radiosurgery Outcome





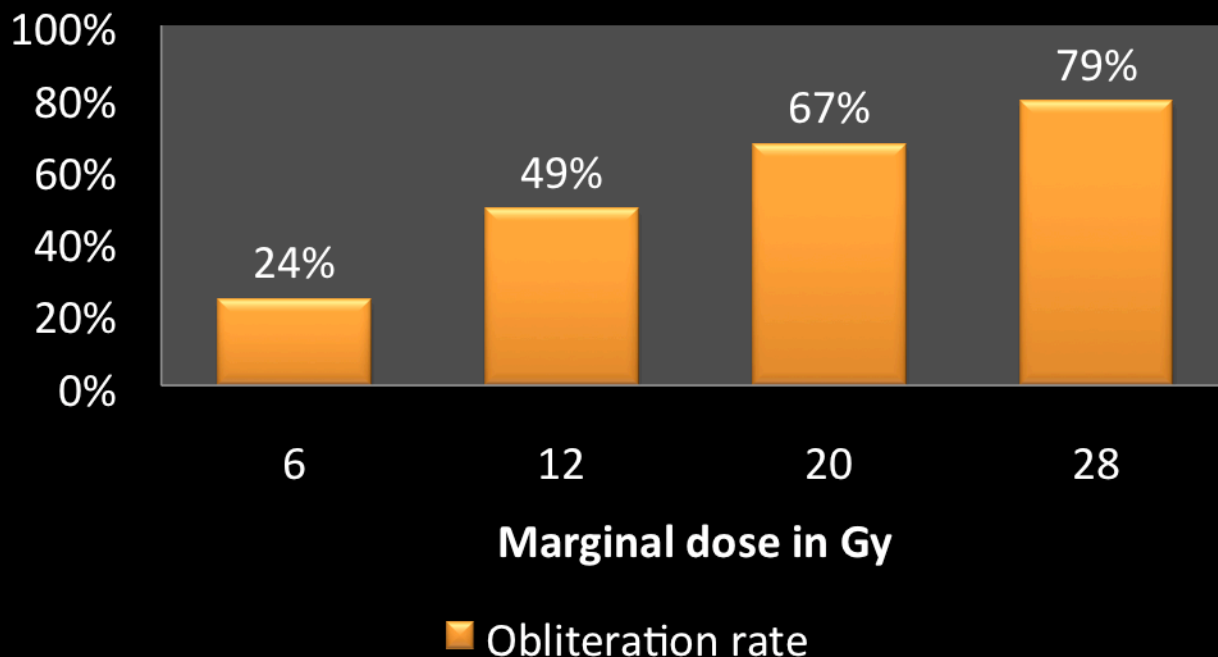
# Radiosurgery Outcome



Nataf et al (2001) results of series of 705 AVM treated by radiosurgery  
Neurochirurgie 47:268-282

# Radiosurgery Outcome

- Marginal dose is most significant factor
- Obliteration Probability =  
 $35.69 \times \ln(\text{marginal dose} - 39.66)$



# AIIMS Data

Does hemorrhagic presentation in cerebral arteriovenous malformations affect obliteration rate after gamma knife radiosurgery?☆

Manish Kumar Kasliwal, Shashank Sharad Kale\*, Aditya Gupta,  
Narayanam Anantha Sai Kiran, Manish Singh Sharma,  
Deepak Agrawal, Bhawani Shanker Sharma, Ashok K. Mahapatra

*Department of Neurosurgery and Gamma Knife, Neurosciences Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi India*

*Received 26 November 2007; received in revised form 1 May 2008; accepted 13 May 2008*



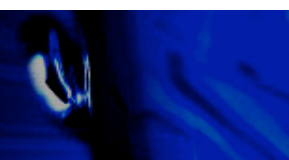
**Series of 106 patients showing no difference in obliteration rate and chances of hemorrhage between the two groups. ( $p=0.672$ )**

*Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery 110 (2008) 804–809*

# AIIMS Data

## Outcome after hemorrhage following Gamma Knife surgery for cerebral arteriovenous malformations

Series of 494 patients



J Neurosurg 110:1003–1009, 2009

*Results.* The mortality rate was 0% and there was a 7% risk of sustaining a severe deficit following rebleeding after GKS. None of the patients sustained rebleeding after complete obliteration. Patients with Spetzler-Martin Grade III or less had increased chances of hemorrhage after GKS ( $p < 0.002$ ). The presence of deep venous drainage, aneurysm, venous hypertension, or periventricular location on angiography was common in patients with hemorrhage after GKS.



# Gamma knife radiosurgery for arteriovenous malformations of basal ganglia, thalamus and brainstem—a retrospective study comparing the results with that for AVMs at other intracranial locations

Narayanam Anantha Sai Kiran • Shashank Sharad Kale • Manish Kumar Kasliwal • Sandeep Vaishya • Aditya Gupta • Manish Singh Sharma • Bhawani Shankar Sharma • Ashok Kumar Mahapatra

Acta Neurochir

DOI 10.1007/s00701-009-0335-0

Patients with central AVMs presented at a younger age (mean age 22.7 years vs. 29 years), with a very high proportion (81% vs. 63%) presenting with hemorrhage. Significantly higher incidence of radiation edema (15% vs. 5%) and lower obliteration rates (74% vs. 93%) were seen in patients with central AVMs.

# Gamma Knife surgery for intracranial arteriovenous malformations in children: a retrospective study in 103 patients

J Neurosurg (6 Suppl Pediatrics) 107:479–484, 2007



*Results.* Complete obliteration of the AVM was documented in 34 (87%) of the 39 patients with complete angiographic follow-up. The 3- and 4-year actuarial rates of nidus obliteration were 66 and 86% respectively. Three patients (2.9%) experienced bleeding during the latency period, and symptomatic radiation-induced edema was noted in four patients (3.8%). A significantly higher incidence of radiation edema was noted in patients with AVM volumes greater than 3 ml and in patients with Spetzler–Martin Grade IV and V AVMs.

*Conclusion.* Gamma Knife radiosurgery is an effective modality for the treatment of intracranial AVMs in chil-

# Microsurgery Vs Radiosurgery

Surgery

GK

High FND

Obliteration  
rate high

Equal  
mortality

High Rebleed

Better GOS

Neurosurgery. 2007 Jul;61(1):39-49

# Comparison of Microsurgery and Radio-surgery

Safety

Mortality

Morbidity

Rebleed  
rate

Obliteration  
rate

Patient  
factors

AVM  
factors

Expertise





**‘If the goal is the quickest  
cure, there is a “price to pay”  
with higher risks’**

# Team Approach



**Stereotactic radiosurgeon**

**Neurosurgeon**

**Neuroradiologist**

**Neurologist**

# General recommendation

SM grade	Deep perf Vessel	Size	1 <sup>st</sup> choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> choice
1 & 2	-	-	Sx	GK
3	Absent		Sx	Gk
3	Present	<3 cm	GK	Palliation
3	Present	>3 cm	Palliation	GK+Embo +/- Sx
4 & 5	Absent		Emb+ Sx	Palliation
4 & 5	Present		Palliation	Gk +/- Sx/embo.

Thank you

