With the rapid progress in neuroimaging techniques and current widespread performance of MR and CT angiography, the incidence of patients being identified with unruptured cerebral aneurysms and referred for surgical treatment and endovascular coiling is increasing. Moreover, advances in surgical techniques are minimizing postoperative complications. In a recent surgical series of unruptured aneurysms less than 10–15 mm, the incidence of major surgical morbidity was less than 1%.

Postoperative subdural hygroma and chronic subdural hematoma after unruptured aneurysm surgery: age, sex, and aneurysm location as independent risk factors

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OBJECTIVE This study investigated the incidence and risk factors for the postoperative occurrence of subdural complications, such as a subdural hygroma and resultant chronic subdural hematoma (CSDH), following surgical clipping of an unruptured aneurysm. The critical age affecting such occurrences and follow-up results were also examined.

METHODS The case series included 364 consecutive patients who underwent aneurysm clipping via a pterional or superciliary keyhole approach for an unruptured saccular aneurysm in the anterior cerebral circulation between 2007 and 2013. The subdural hygromas were identified based on CT scans 6–9 weeks after surgery, and the volumes were measured using volumetry studies. Until their complete resolution, all the subdural hygromas were followed using CT scans every 1–2 months. Meanwhile, the CSDHs were classified as nonoperative or operative lesions that were treated by bur-hole drainage. The age and sex of the patients, aneurysm location, history of a subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), and surgical approach (pterional vs superciliary) were all analyzed regarding the postoperative occurrence of a subdural hygroma or CSDH. The follow-up results of the subdural complications were also investigated.

RESULTS Seventy patients (19.2%) developed a subdural hygroma or CSDH. The results of a multivariate analysis showed that advanced age (p = 0.003), male sex (p < 0.001), middle cerebral artery (MCA) aneurysm (p = 0.045), and multiple concomitant aneurysms at the MCA and anterior communicating artery (ACoA) (p < 0.001) were all significant risk factors of a subdural hygroma and CSDH. In addition, a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis revealed a cut-off age of > 60 years, which achieved a 70% sensitivity and 69% specificity with regard to predicting such subdural complications. The female patients ≤ 60 years of age showed a negligible incidence of subdural complications for all aneurysm groups, whereas the male patients > 60 years of age showed the highest incidence of subdural complications at 50%–100%, according to the aneurysm location. The subdural hygromas detected 6–9 weeks postoperatively showed different follow-up results, according to the severity. The subdural hygromas that converted to a CSDH were larger in volume than the subdural hygromas that resolved spontaneously (28.4 ± 16.8 ml vs 59.6 ± 38.4 ml, p = 0.003). Conversion to a CSDH was observed in 31.3% (5 of 16), 64.3% (9 of 14), and 83.3% (5 of 6) of the patients with mild, moderate, and severe subdural hygromas, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS Advanced age, male sex, and an aneurysm location requiring extensive arachnoid dissection (MCA aneurysms and multiple concomitant aneurysms at the MCA and ACoA) are all correlated with the occurrence of a subdural hygroma and CSDH after unruptured aneurysm surgery. The critical age affecting such an occurrence is 60 years.
currence of a subdural hygroma and resultant chronic sub-
dural hematoma (CSDH) is still common and sometimes
troublesome.7,15,17,24

Although most subdural hygromas resolve spontaneously,
they can persist for a while and even convert to a CSDH. Such persistence of subdural hygromas can be-
come more problematic in patients with medical condi-
tions requiring antiplatelet or anticoagulant medication.
Also, the conversion of a subdural hygroma to a CSDH
is potentially serious and can require bur-hole drainage.

Accordingly, this study investigated the incidence and
risk factors for the occurrence of subdural complications,
such as a subdural hygroma and CSDH, and attempted to
determine the critical age affecting such occurrences and
to elucidate the follow-up results.

Methods

Patient Population

After institutional review board approval, a retrospec-
tive review was conducted of all surgical cases of an
unruptured, nongiant aneurysm in the anterior cerebral
circulation clipped using a pterional or superciliary key-
hole approach without an acute subarachnoid hemorrhage
(SAH) that were treated between January 2007 and Oc-
tober 2013. The detailed surgical techniques of the super-
ciliary keyhole approach were previously reported by the
current authors.19,20 The medical records were reviewed to
obtain relevant clinical information, and all the radiologi-
cal data in this study were obtained using an electronic
picture-archiving and communication system (PACS). Of
a total of 376 patients, 12 were excluded due to the absence
of regular CT scans 6–9 weeks postoperatively or appro-
priate follow-up CT scans.

Diagnosis of Subdural Hygroma and CSDH

Brain CT scans were routinely performed on Day 1,
within 1 week (at discharge), and 6–9 weeks postopera-
tively. Additional CT scans were conducted in the case of
any symptoms, such as a persistent headache, and follow-
up images were obtained in the case of any subdural com-
lications detected in the CT scans.

A subdural hygroma, which is the accumulation of CSF
in the subdural space, was identified based on a CT find-
ing of a density similar to that of CSF in the unilateral
or bilateral frontoparietal region. The CT scans taken 6–9
weeks postoperatively were used to measure the volume of
the subdural hygroma. These volumetry studies were per-
formed using the CT scans taken on the axial planes with
a section thickness of 5 mm. PiViewSTAR (INFINITT Co.,
Ltd.), a PACS, was used to calculate the area of the subdu-
ral hygroma in each axial slice based on manually outlin-
ing the region of interest. The areas in each slice were then
multiplied by the thickness of the slice and summed to ar-
rive at the final measurement. A subdural hygroma was di-
aagnosed in cases of a volume > 10 ml or thickness > 4 mm.

The severity of each subdural hygroma was arbitrarily
classified as follows, using the CT scans taken 6–9 weeks
postoperatively: mild subdural hygroma with a volume <
30 ml; moderate subdural hygroma with a volume 30–60
ml; and severe, bilateral subdural hygroma with a volume
> 60 ml (Fig. 1). The subdural hygromas were all followed
up using CT scans every 1–2 months until their resolution.

A CSDH was diagnosed based on a CT finding of a crescent-shaped isodense or slightly hyperdense extra-
axial collection in the frontoparietal region contrary to the
hypodense subdural hygroma, and then classified as a non-
operative CSDH (asymptomatic CSDH < 1.5 cm thick with
spontaneous resolution) or operative CSDH (symptomatic
or thick CSDH treated by bur-hole drainage). Similarly,
the CSDHs were all followed up using CT scans every 1–2
months until their resolution (either spontaneously or after
surgical treatment).

The radiological diagnosis of subdural complications
and volumetry studies of the subdural hygromas using CT
scans taken 6–9 weeks postoperatively were performed by
the readers (J.H.C. and D.H.G.), who were blinded to the
clinical course of the patients.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed with the aid of
commercially available statistics software (SPSS version
19.0; SPSS, Inc. and MedCalc version 6.2; MedCalc, Inc.).
To investigate the risk factors of a postoperative subdural
hygroma and CSDH, uni- and multivariate analyses were
performed. A chi-square analysis was used for the catego-
gerical variables (sex, history of SAH, location of the an-
eurysm, and surgical approach). A 2-sample Student t-test
was used for the quantitative variable (age) to select the
significant variables for inclusion in the binary multiple
logistic regression statistical test used to determine the
variables influencing the occurrence of subdural compli-
cations. A receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve
analysis was also performed to determine the best cut-off
age affecting the occurrence of a subdural hygroma and
CSDH. Meanwhile, Fisher’s exact test was performed to
compare the follow-up results for different grades of sub-
dural hygroma. A 1-way ANOVA was used to compare
the volumes of the subdural hygromas between the groups
with and without conversion to a CSDH. Differences with
p values less than 0.05 were considered to be statistically
significant.

Results

Clinical Characteristics

The clinical characteristics of the 364 patients who un-
derwent a craniotomy for an unruptured aneurysm in the
anterior cerebral circulation and made regular postopera-
tive follow-up visits are summarized in Table 1. With a
mean age of 57.5 years (median 57 years, range 33–78),
246 patients were women and 118 were men. Fifty-four
patients (14.8%) had a history of an SAH caused by a con-
comitant aneurysm.

The patients were grouped according to the extent of
arachnoid dissection required to expose and clip the an-
eurysm as follows: Group A, those patients with a single
intraparenchymal aneurysm (n = 24), including an intra-
cranial atherosclerotic aneurysm (n = 16), and an aneur-
sym of the aneurysm (n = 8), as well as a single
internal carotid artery (ICA) aneurysm (n = 80), including
a superior hypophyseal artery aneurysm (n = 2), posterior
communicating artery aneurysm (n = 50), anterior choroi-
dal artery aneurysm (n = 18), ICA superor wall aneurysm
(n = 5), and ICA bifurcation aneurysm (n = 5), as well
as double ICA aneurysms (n = 3) and proximal A1 aneurysm (n = 3); Group B, those patients with a single anterior communicating artery (ACoA) aneurysm (n = 64), double ACoA aneurysms (n = 5), and concomitant aneurysms (n = 6) arising at the ICA and ACoA; Group C, those patients with a single middle cerebral artery (MCA) aneurysm (n = 172) at the M1 segment or MCA bifurcation, double MCA aneurysms (n = 4), and concomitant aneurysms (n = 13) arising at the ICA and MCA; Group D, those patients with concomitant aneurysms (n = 14) arising at the MCA and ACoA. A total of 409 aneurysms were clipped for the 364 patients.

Seventy-four patients (20.3%) underwent a pterional craniotomy, and 290 patients (79.7%) underwent a supraorbital mini-craniotomy using a 3.5-cm eyebrow incision.

Postoperative Subdural Hygroma

Using the CT scans taken 6–9 weeks after surgery, subdural hygromas > 10 ml were identified in 36 patients, the volumes ranging from 11 to 150 ml (mean ± SD: 44.9 ± 33.8 ml). The subdural hygromas were classified as follows: mild (n = 16, 19.5 ± 6.0 ml), moderate (n = 14, 47.4 ± 10.4 ml), and severe (n = 6, 106.7 ± 30.5 ml).

In the follow-up CT scans, all the subdural hygromas either resolved spontaneously or changed to a CSDH. In the latter case, the subdural hygromas on the CT scans 6–9 weeks postoperatively showed higher volumes than the subdural hygromas that resolved spontaneously (28.4 ± 16.8 ml vs 59.6 ± 38.4 ml, p = 0.003). No subdural hygroma required bur-hole drainage without conversion to a large CSDH.

According to the severity of the subdural hygroma, a statistically significant difference was found in the incidence of spontaneous resolution, conversion to a nonoperative CSDH, and development of a CSDH requiring bur-hole drainage (p = 0.009) (Fig. 2). The conversion of a subdural hygroma to a CSDH was observed in 31.3% (5 of 16), 64.3% (9 of 14), and 83.3% (5 of 6) of patients with mild, moderate, and severe subdural hygromas, respectively, whereas all the remaining patients showed spontaneous resolution of the subdural hygroma.

Postoperative CSDH

A CSDH was diagnosed in 34 (9.3%) of the 364 patients. Of these 34 patients, the CSDH was minimal and resolved spontaneously in the follow-up CT scans in 17 patients (4.7%), whereas the remaining 17 patients (4.7%) required surgical treatment due to the volume of the CSDH being > 1.5 cm thick and/or related symptoms. The bur-hole drainage of a CSDH was performed 4–20 weeks (mean ± SD: 9.1 ± 3.8 weeks, median 8 weeks) after the aneurysm surgery.

Risk Factors of Subdural Hygroma and CSDH

The univariate analysis revealed that male sex (p < 0.001), advanced age (p < 0.001), and aneurysm location (p = 0.003) were all potential risk factors for the postoperative subdural hygroma.

### TABLE 1. Clinical characteristics of 364 patients who underwent surgical clipping for unruptured aneurysms in anterior cerebral circulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>No. of Patients (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>118 (32.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age in yrs, ± SD</td>
<td>57.5 ± 10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of SAH</td>
<td>54 (14.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of aneurysm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>86 (23.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single ICA aneurysm</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double ICA aneurysms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximal A1 aneurysm</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>75 (20.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single ACoA aneurysm</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double ACoA aneurysms</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICA aneurysm &amp; ACoA aneurysm</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>189 (51.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single MCA aneurysm</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double MCA aneurysms</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICA aneurysm &amp; MCA aneurysm</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>14 (3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACoA aneurysm &amp; MCA aneurysm</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Surgical approach

- Pterional: 74 (20.3)
- Superciliary: 290 (79.7)
The incidence of subdural complications, such as a subdural hygroma and CSDH (Table 2). However, the surgical approach (pterional vs superciliary) and a history of SAH were not significant risk factors. Meanwhile, for the occurrence of an operative CSDH, male sex (OR 7.181, 95% CI 2.852–18.077, p < 0.001) and advanced age (OR 0.953, 95% CI 0.939–0.967, p < 0.001) were the only risk factors (Table 4).

Critical Age Affecting Occurrence of Subdural Hygroma and CSDH

An ROC curve analysis for age was performed to determine the cut-off value for the occurrence of subdural complications, such as a subdural hygroma and CSDH. The results revealed that patient age > 60 years was the appropriate cut-off value (area under the curve [AUC] 0.716, sensitivity 70.0%, specificity 69.0%) (Fig. 3).

Incidence of Subdural Complications According to Known Risk Factors

Based on the known risk factors including the critical age (60 years), sex, and aneurysm location, the incidence of subdural complications including subdural hygroma and CSDH is shown in Fig. 4. The female patients ≤ 60 years of age exhibited a negligible incidence of subdural complications for all aneurysm groups, whereas the male patients > 60 years of age showed the highest incidence of subdural complications at 50% (2 of 4 patients), 64% (9 of 14 patients), 67% (8 of 12 patients), and 100% (3 of 3 patients) for Groups A, B, C, and D, respectively. Meanwhile, the incidence of subdural complications was approximately 32% (19 of 60 and 13 of 41 patients) for the female patients > 60 years of age and male patients ≤ 60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2</th>
<th>Factors affecting occurrence of subdural hygroma or CSDH after surgery for unruptured aneurysms on univariate analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factor</td>
<td>No. of Patients (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age in yrs, ± SD</td>
<td>57.5 ± 10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of SAH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aneurysm location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pterional</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superciliary</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Chi-square test.
† Two-sample Student t-test.
years of age, respectively, in Group C, including patients with an MCA aneurysm.

Clinical Outcomes

None of the patients with a subdural hygroma developed significant neurological deficits, although mild to moderate headache or fatigue was sometimes experienced for 1–2 weeks in the 2nd or 3rd week postoperatively. The mild subdural hygromas detected 6–9 weeks postoperatively were all resolved within 3–4 months after surgery, whereas it took 3–6 months after surgery for the moderate and severe subdural hygromas to be resolved.

Meanwhile, all the patients with a CSDH recovered without neurological sequelae after spontaneous resolution or surgical treatment. None of the patients experienced recurrence of the CSDH.

Discussion

For patients who undergo surgery for an unruptured aneurysm, previous studies have already identified advanced age and male sex as the risk factors for a CSDH.7,15,17,24 In contrast, the present study investigated postoperative subdural complications, such as subdural hygromas and CSDHs, as a continuum and identified independent risk factors, including an aneurysm location requiring extensive dissection of the arachnoid membrane covering the sylvian fissure (MCA aneurysms, as well as multiple aneurysms at the MCA and ACoA), in addition to advanced age and male sex. Furthermore, aneurysms requiring extensive arachnoid dissection, including ACoA and MCA aneurysms, with the exception of ICA aneurysms, reached near significance (0.05 < p < 0.1) as risk factors for an operative CSDH in the multivariate analysis. The critical age affecting the occurrence of subdural complications was determined as > 60 years. The present study also graded the subdural hygromas using CT scans taken 6–9 weeks after surgery to predict the duration of their persistence and the follow-up results according to the severity.

The occurrence of a subdural hygroma and resultant development of a CSDH have already been reported in patients who suffer traumatic brain injury or undergo neurosurgical procedures.11,16,18,21,27 One assumed mechanism leading to a subdural hygroma is the sequence of traumatic tearing or surgical dissection of the arachnoid membrane, the formation of a 1-way valve by adhesion of the arachnoid during the healing process, and the accumulation of CSF via the 1-way valve in the subdural space.11,27

![ROC curve of patient age as a variable for predicting the occurrence of subdural hygroma and CSDH. AUC 0.716, cut-off > 60 years, sensitivity 70.0%, specificity 69.0%.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3.697</td>
<td>2.133–6.409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<td>0.980–0.996</td>
<td>0.003</td>
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<td>Aneurysm location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>1.582</td>
<td>0.651–3.841</td>
<td>0.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>2.183</td>
<td>1.019–4.677</td>
<td>0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>16.395</td>
<td>4.233–63.499</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of SAH</td>
<td>1.445</td>
<td>0.705–2.961</td>
<td>0.315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical approach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pterional</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superciliary</td>
<td>1.135</td>
<td>0.587–2.193</td>
<td>0.707</td>
</tr>
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</table>

NA = not applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7.181</td>
<td>2.852–18.077</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.953</td>
<td>0.939–0.967</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aneurysm location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>4.727</td>
<td>0.961–23.253</td>
<td>0.056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>3.774</td>
<td>0.836–17.043</td>
<td>0.084</td>
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<td>Group D</td>
<td>6.919</td>
<td>0.822–58.247</td>
<td>0.075</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of SAH</td>
<td>1.025</td>
<td>0.337–3.117</td>
<td>0.965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical approach</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pterional</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superciliary</td>
<td>1.429</td>
<td>0.473–4.315</td>
<td>0.527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For patients who undergo surgery for an unruptured aneurysm, previous studies have already identified advanced age and male sex as the risk factors for a CSDH.7,15,17,24 In contrast, the present study investigated postoperative subdural complications, such as subdural hygromas and CSDHs, as a continuum and identified independent risk factors, including an aneurysm location requiring extensive dissection of the arachnoid membrane covering the sylvian fissure (MCA aneurysms, as well as multiple aneurysms at the MCA and ACoA), in addition to advanced age and male sex. Furthermore, aneurysms requiring extensive arachnoid dissection, including ACoA and MCA aneurysms, with the exception of ICA aneurysms, reached near significance (0.05 < p < 0.1) as risk factors for an operative CSDH in the multivariate analysis. The critical age affecting the occurrence of subdural complications was determined as > 60 years. The present study also graded the subdural hygromas using CT scans taken 6–9 weeks after surgery to predict the duration of their persistence and the follow-up results according to the severity.

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![ROC curve of patient age as a variable for predicting the occurrence of subdural hygroma and CSDH. AUC 0.716, cut-off > 60 years, sensitivity 70.0%, specificity 69.0%](image)
Meanwhile, tearing of the stretched bridging veins and bleeding from the neomembrane of the CSDH are the suggested mechanisms for the development and enlargement of a CSDH.

Surgical clipping of unruptured aneurysms in the circle of Willis requires dissection of the arachnoid membrane covering the basal cisterns and sylvian fissure. Thereafter, the adhesive healing process facilitating the 1-way–valve phenomenon persists for a while. In particular, this seems to take longer for the sylvian fissure than the basal cisterns. The sylvian fissure, which is in a nondependent position, is widened following the dissection of the arachnoid, whereas the basal cisterns are located under the brain and the dissected gaps are reduced and covered by the undersurface of the brain after completion of the surgery.

Age-related brain atrophy shows decreased gray- and white-matter volumes and resultant increases in the CSF volumes in the sylvian fissure (frontotemporal atrophy), sulci (cortical atrophy), and ventricles (central cerebral atrophy). Such brain atrophy with aging occurs heterogeneously with regional differences. In the case of aneurysm surgery for elderly patients, the ensuing period of the 1-way–valve phenomenon for the dissected arachnoid can be prolonged due to the widened sylvian fissure and basal cisterns. This prolonged 1-way–valve phenomenon increases the degree and duration of a subdural hygroma. Furthermore, the reduced brain matter itself reduces the resistance against the subdural accumulation of CSF. Thus, the prolongation and severity of the subdural hygroma increases the risk of a CSDH.

The reasons a subdural hygroma and CSDH occur more frequently in male patients are not fully understood, yet a sex difference in brain atrophy is one reason to consider. Differences in the degree and location of brain atrophy are known to vary with sex, and the degree of brain atrophy has been reported to be greater in male subjects, including higher sulcal and sylvian fissure CSF volumes than in female subjects.

The incidence of a postoperative CSDH seems to differ according to the neurosurgical procedure. Mori and Maeda reported the following incidences of CSDHs after neurosurgical procedures: 0.4% following the removal of a brain tumor, 2.4% after clipping an aneurysm, and 5.9% after superficial temporal artery-to-MCA anastomosis. Also, Ohno et al. reported a significantly higher incidence of CSDHs after surgery for unruptured aneurysms than after surgery for ruptured aneurysms. The brain swelling following an SAH is considered to decrease the subdural space and resist the accumulation of CSF.

After surgery for an unruptured aneurysm, most occurrences of a subdural hygroma and CSDH are delayed and cannot be predicted based on postoperative CT scans taken within 1 week. In the current series, only 2 patients with a CSDH underwent bur-hole drainage as early as 4 weeks postsurgery, while the remaining patients underwent bur-hole drainage 6–20 weeks after aneurysm surgery. Thus, delayed CT scans need to be performed 1–2 months after surgery to check for a subdural hygroma or CSDH.

In the case of a moderate or severe subdural hygroma, it can persist longer than 6 months after surgery and can develop into a CSDH any time before its complete resolution. Although the prognosis of a postoperative subdural hygroma is generally favorable, the risk of a CSDH and possible duration of a subdural hygroma should be taken into account when determining the treatment modality (surgical vs endovascular) and treatment timing for those patients with the risk factors for a subdural hygroma, including advanced age (> 60 years), male sex, and aneurysm location.

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**Fig. 4.** Diagram demonstrating the incidence of subdural complications according to the age, sex, and aneurysm location.
at the MCA. In particular, careful attention should be paid to cases of concomitant multiple aneurysms at the MCA and ACoA.

To prevent a postoperative subdural hygroma, positive results have already been reported on blocking the communication between the CSF space and the subdural space, where a fibrin adhesive is applied to seal the arachnoid defect in the sylvian fissure in the case of aneurysm surgery and the cortical defect in the case of transcortical transventricular procedures. However, an allergic reaction was reported after arachnoid plasty using a fibrin sealant, and the overall benefits and risks of such procedures have not yet been ascertained based on a large case series.

The current study is limited, because it is based on a retrospective review of a case series from a single institution. However, the large number of patients and strict radiological follow-up of the subdural complications until their resolution allow for a high level of confidence in the identified risk factors and final outcomes. Notwithstanding, the application of different surgical techniques (conventional vs minimally invasive approaches) was not randomized and no closure technique for the arachnoid membrane was performed. Meanwhile, in any future study, the risk factors identified in the current study should also be analyzed to investigate the efficacy of closure of the arachnoid to prevent a subdural hygroma, and male patients > 60 years of age who undergo surgical clipping for an unruptured MCA aneurysm should be the main subjects for arachnoid plasty.

Conclusions

Advanced age, male sex, and an aneurysm location requiring extensive arachnoid dissection (MCA aneurysms and, in particular, multiple concomitant aneurysms at the MCA and ACoA) were all correlated with the occurrence of a subdural hygroma and CSDH after unruptured aneurysm surgery. The critical age affecting such an occurrence was > 60 years.

References


**Disclosure**

The authors report no conflict of interest concerning the materials or methods used in this study or the findings specified in this paper.

**Author Contributions**


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