Surgical clipping of a ruptured posterior inferior cerebellar artery aneurysm

M. Yashar S. Kalani, M.D., Ph.D., Peter Nakaji, M.D., Joseph M. Zabramski, M.D., and Robert F. Spetzler, M.D.

Division of Neurological Surgery, Barrow Neurological Institute, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, Arizona

Posterior circulation aneurysms are commonly treated with endovascular techniques. In select cases, microsurgery remains an essential tool for treating these lesions. We present a case of a ruptured posterior inferior cerebellar artery (PICA) aneurysm approached via a craniotomy. Given the labyrinth of neurovascular bundles present in the posterior fossa, surgical exposure of PICA aneurysms can be challenging. This video demonstrates the steps of the craniotomy, subarachnoid dissection, mobilization of the vertebral artery and lower cranial nerves, and clipping of the aneurysm.

The video can be found here: http://youtu.be/fQSxQj7oL0U.

KEY WORDS aneurysm clipping; posterior inferior cerebellar artery aneurysm