

Intracerebral Hemorrhage

Intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) is a type of [stroke](#) caused by bleeding directly into the [brain parenchyma](#), forming a [hematoma](#) that can compress or damage surrounding [brain tissue](#).

Definition

Intracerebral hemorrhage refers to bleeding within the brain parenchyma, not secondary to trauma.

Epidemiology

It represents approximately 10–15% of all strokes and carries a high mortality and morbidity rate.

Common Causes

- Chronic hypertension (most frequent)
- Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (especially in the elderly)
- Arteriovenous malformations (AVMs)
- Anticoagulant or antiplatelet therapy
- Coagulopathies
- Hemorrhagic transformation of ischemic infarct
- Brain tumors
- Drug use (e.g., cocaine, amphetamines)

Clinical Presentation

- Sudden focal neurological deficit (e.g., hemiparesis, aphasia)
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Altered level of consciousness
- Seizures (less common)
- Signs of elevated intracranial pressure

Diagnosis

- **CT scan (non-contrast)**: first-line for rapid detection
- **MRI**: useful for subacute/chronic hemorrhage or identifying underlying lesions
- Laboratory studies to assess coagulopathy

Management

- Blood pressure control (e.g., SBP < 140–160 mmHg depending on case)
- Reversal of anti*

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