

Neurosurgery Glossary

This glossary contains concise definitions of terms commonly used in neurosurgery.

A

Aneurysm A localized balloon-like dilation of an artery caused by a weakness in the arterial wall, often occurring in the circle of Willis.

AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation) A congenital vascular anomaly where arteries connect directly to veins without capillaries, potentially causing hemorrhage.

B

Burr Hole A small hole drilled into the skull to relieve pressure or allow access for surgery or catheter placement.

C

Chiari Malformation A structural defect where brain tissue extends into the spinal canal, often involving the cerebellar tonsils.

Craniotomy A surgical procedure where part of the skull is removed to access the brain.

D

Dural Tear An unintended opening in the dura mater, which can cause cerebrospinal fluid leakage.

E

EVD (External Ventricular Drain) A temporary catheter placed in the ventricles to drain CSF and monitor intracranial pressure.

G

Glioblastoma The most aggressive and common malignant brain tumor in adults, classified as WHO grade IV.

S

Subdural Hematoma A collection of blood between the dura mater and the arachnoid membrane, usually due to trauma.

Stereotactic Surgery A minimally invasive form of surgical intervention that uses a three-dimensional coordinate system to locate small targets inside the body.

T

[Thoracolumbar spine fracture](#)

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Last update: **2025/07/03 17:18**

