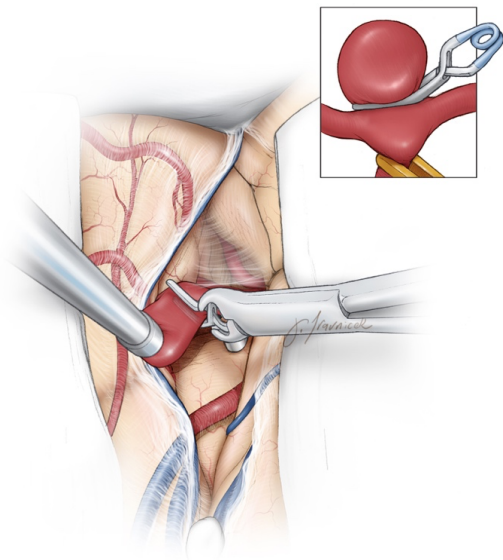


What is a craniotomy and clipping of cerebral aneurysm?

A cerebral aneurysm is an abnormality and weakness in the wall of a blood vessel in the brain. This operation is performed to enable a titanium clip to be placed on the neck of the aneurysm to prevent it from bleeding.

A cut is made over the area where the brain needs to be opened. Most commonly just behind the hairline. A segment of skull bone will be removed. The coverings (dura) of the brain will be opened. Dissection between the spaces of the brain is performed to identify the aneurysm and artery. A titanium clip is placed across the neck of the Aneurysm. The coverings are closed and the skull bone is put back and secured with metal plates and screws. The cut closed with stitches or staples.



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Anaesthetic

This procedure will require a general anaesthetic. Please speak to your anaesthetist about the anaesthetic and the risks involved.

What are the risks of this specific procedure?

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications (more than 5%)

- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from IV cannula site. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

- Bleeding can occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs.
- Heart attack due to the strain on the heart.
- Stroke or stroke like complications may occur causing neurological deficits such as weakness in the face, arms and legs. This could be temporary or permanent.
- Injury to the brain, important nerves or blood vessels. This can lead to stroke or stroke like complications.
- Memory disturbance or confusion. This could be temporary or permanent.
- Fluid leakage from around the brain may occur through the wound after the operation. This may require further surgery.
- Epilepsy which may require medication. This condition may be temporary or permanent.
- Abnormal sensations such as pins and needles, numbness or pain may occur from the wound after the operation. This may be temporary or permanent.
- The complete clipping of the aneurysm may not be technically possible. This will result in reduced protection from rupture of the aneurysm. This may require further treatment.
- Loss of vision which may be temporary or permanent.
- Meningitis may occur requiring further treatment and antibiotics.
- Coma.
- Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%) include:

- Decrease in the normal body salt concentration. This may require admission to intensive care and further treatment.
- Skull deformity and/or poor cosmetic result may occur requiring further surgery at a later stage.
- Small areas of the lung may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increase risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT)
- Pulmonary embolism (PE)