

Video transcript: Know your enemy - Aneurysm

Hi, welcome to another Museum of Human Disease “Know Your Enemy” video.

Here I have a museum specimen displaying an aneurysm; this ballooning or bulging of an artery. They occur in any artery but are most dangerous and common in the aorta, as seen in this specimen, or around the brain, as in this berry aneurysm in the circle of Willis.

In some locations, an aneurysm can put pressure on surrounding tissue. But they are most dangerous when they rupture, causing internal bleeding, or haemorrhaging, affecting surrounding tissue and reducing blood supply. In this aorta, a large volume of blood would be escaping. This is internal bleeding, and this patient died 10 minutes after the rupture.

Typically, aneurysms are caused by the loss of elasticity in the artery wall and increased blood pressure, both resulting from smoking, poor diet, being overweight and lack of exercise. These are your enemies.