Arterio Venous Malformations of the Spine (Stroke in the Spinal Cord)

Arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) are defects of the circulatory system that are generally believed to arise during embryonic or fetal development or soon after birth. They are comprised of snarled tangles of arteries and veins. Arteries carry oxygen-rich blood away from the heart to the body’s cells; veins return oxygen-depleted blood to the lungs and heart. The presence of an AVM disrupts this vital cyclical process. Although AVMs can develop in many different sites, those located in the brain or spinal cord—the two parts of the central nervous system—can have especially widespread effects on the body.

AVMs of the brain or spinal cord (neurological AVMs) are believed to affect approximately 300,000 Americans. They occur in males and females of all racial or ethnic backgrounds at roughly equal rates.

Source: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke: Arteriovenous Malformations and Other Vascular Lesions of the Central Nervous System Fact Sheet

Resources:

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS): Arteriovenous Malformation Information Page

https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Arteriovenous-Malformation-Fact-Sheet
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS): Arteriovenous Malformation Information Fact Sheet

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS): Arteriovenous Malformations (AVM) booklet
The Aneurysm and AVM Foundation (TAAF)
TAAF is dedicated to bettering the lives, support networks, and medical care of those affected by aneurysm and other types of vascular malformation of the brain.

AVM Survivors’ Network

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital: Vascular Malformations
Hemangiomas and vascular malformations: conditions and diagnoses

Massachusetts General Hospital: Central Nervous System Vascular Malformations
Includes an introduction to vascular malformations of the brain and spine (AVMs, cavernous malformation or cavernous angioma, venous anomaly or venous malformation, and telangiectasia)

Mayo Clinic: Spinal AVM

National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD): AVM

Wake Forest University Medical Center: Brain Aneurysms and AVMs
Links to information on brain vascular malformations, such as arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and cavernous malformations (cavernous angioma).

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