

# Treatment of vertebrobasilar fusiform aneurysms Chicago Approach



Rush Center for  
Neuroendovascular surgery

Rare... but...



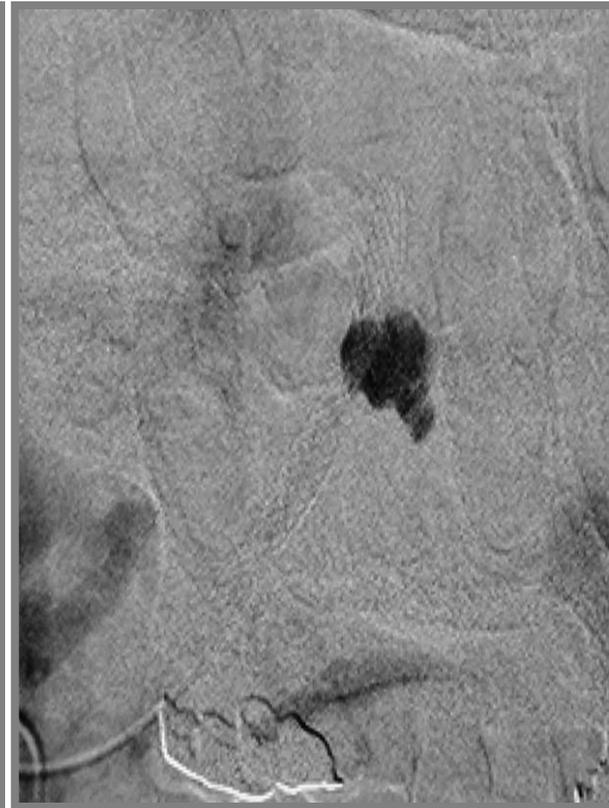
one of the most **formidable** vascular lesions encountered

# VB Fusiform Aneurysms

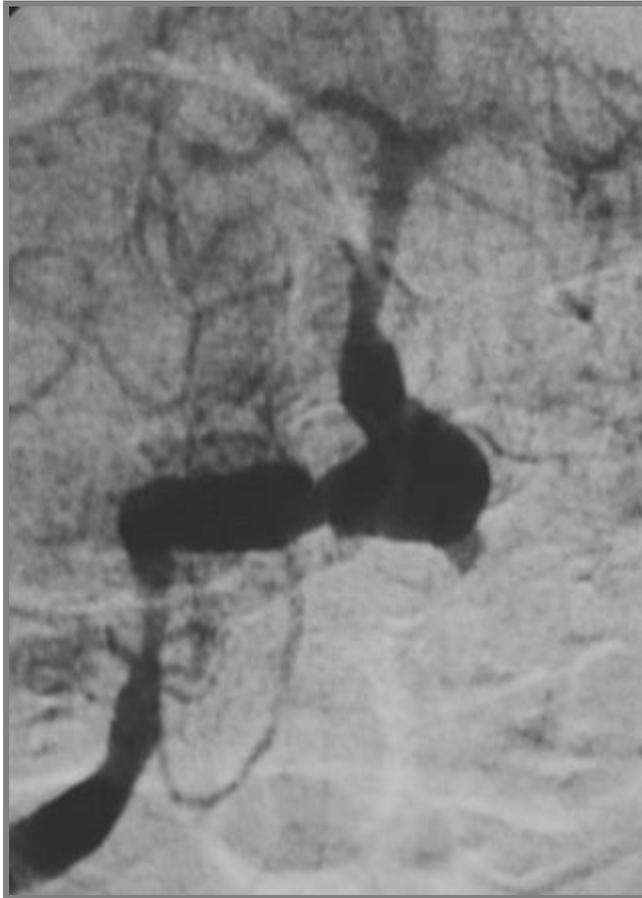
- < 2% of all intracranial aneurysms
- Strong association with **hypertension**
- Presentation:
  - ✓ **Ischemic stroke**
  - ✓ Hemorrhagic stroke
  - ✓ Compression (Mass effect)  
Brainstem, CN palsies, Hydrocephalus
- Poor natural history
  - Increased risk of stroke
  - Median survival 7.8 years

## 1990's – Magic wall self expanding stent

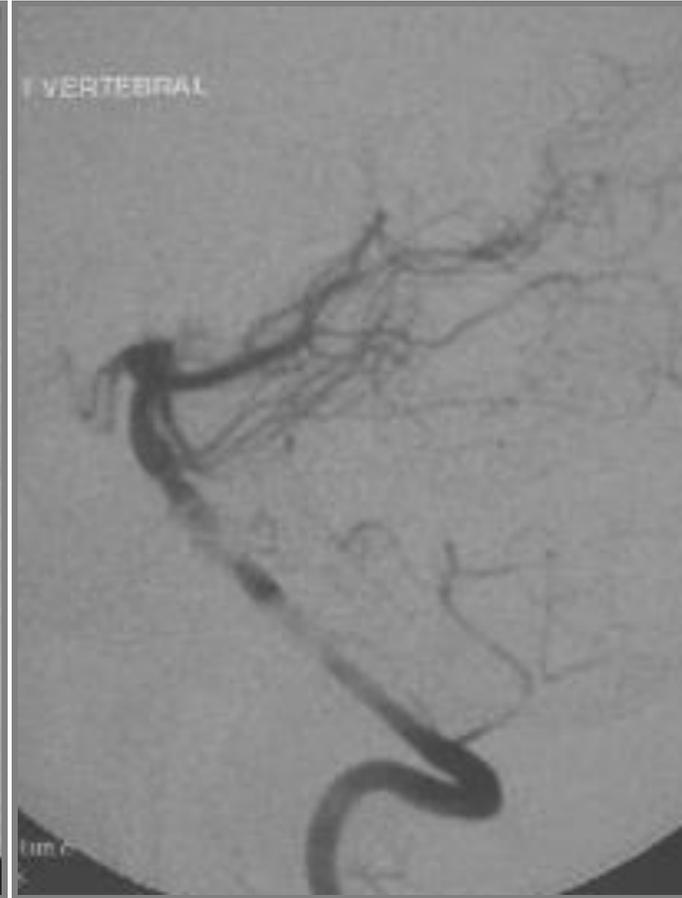
From bench research to clinical application of flow diversion



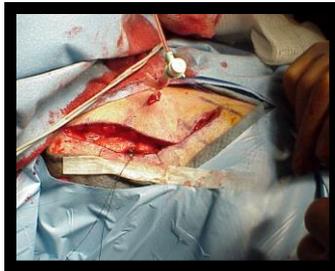
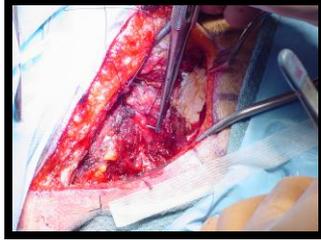
## Incredible case and wonderful clinical outcome



Pre- stent

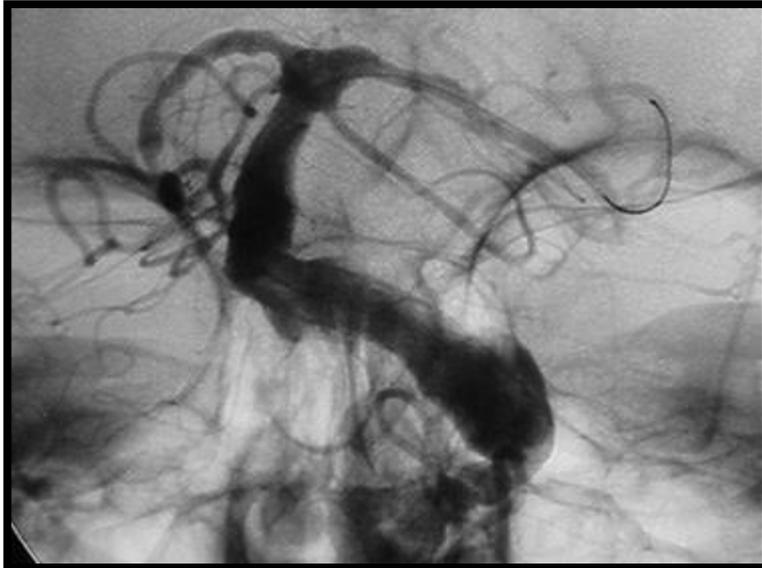


3 months follow-up post stent



## Problems:

1. Access
2. Lack of neuro devices
3. Timing of surgery
4. Best antiplatelet and anticoagulation
5. No intravascular imaging

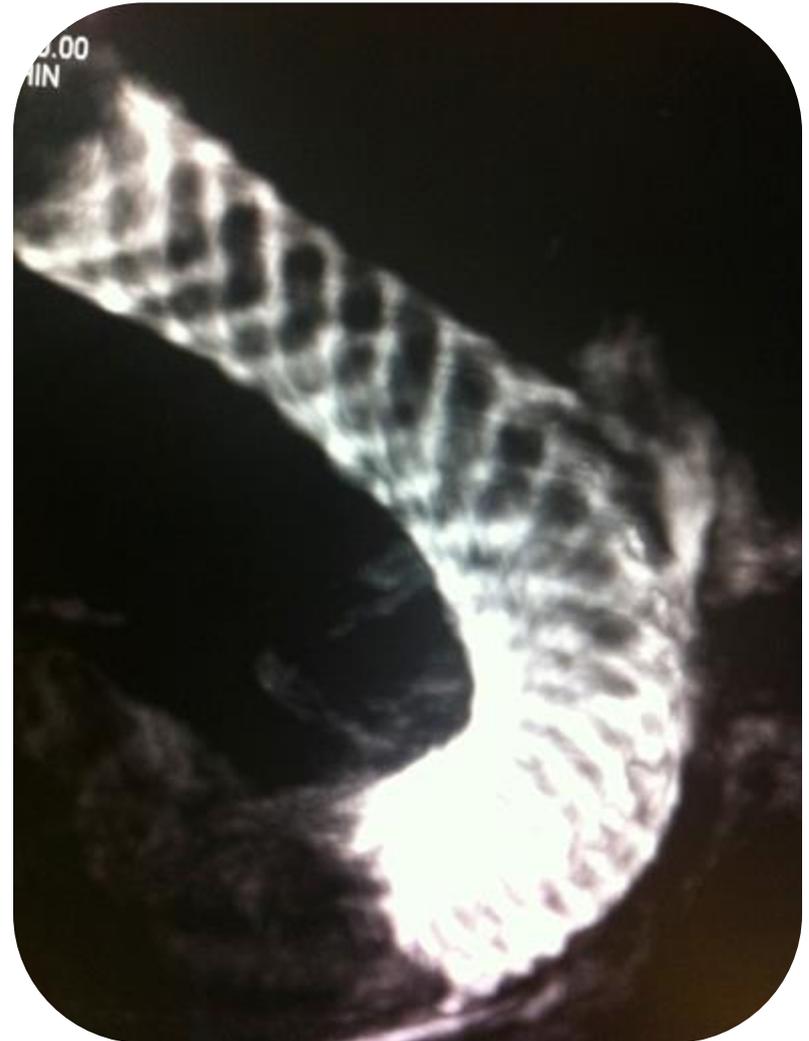


# How about Flow Diverters?

“Home made”



The real “thing”



# FD in posterior circulation

## Bad outcomes reported!

Case	Pre op mRS score	Post op stroke	Post op mRS score
1	1	no	1
2	4	no	6
3	1	yes	0
4	2	yes	6
5	2	yes	6
6	3	yes	5
7	4	yes	6

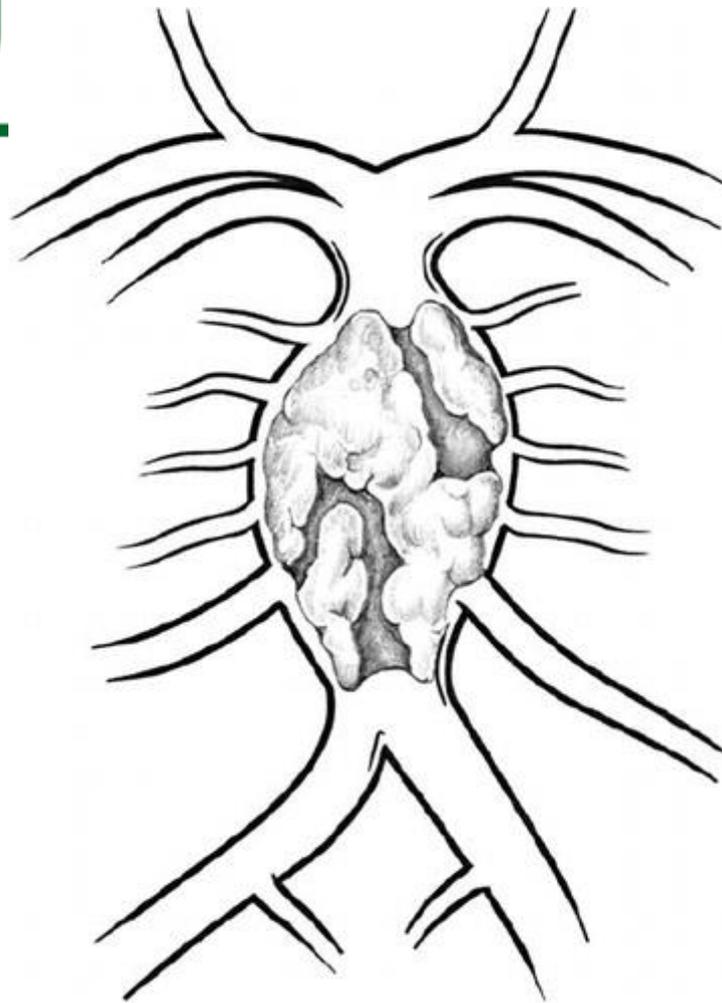
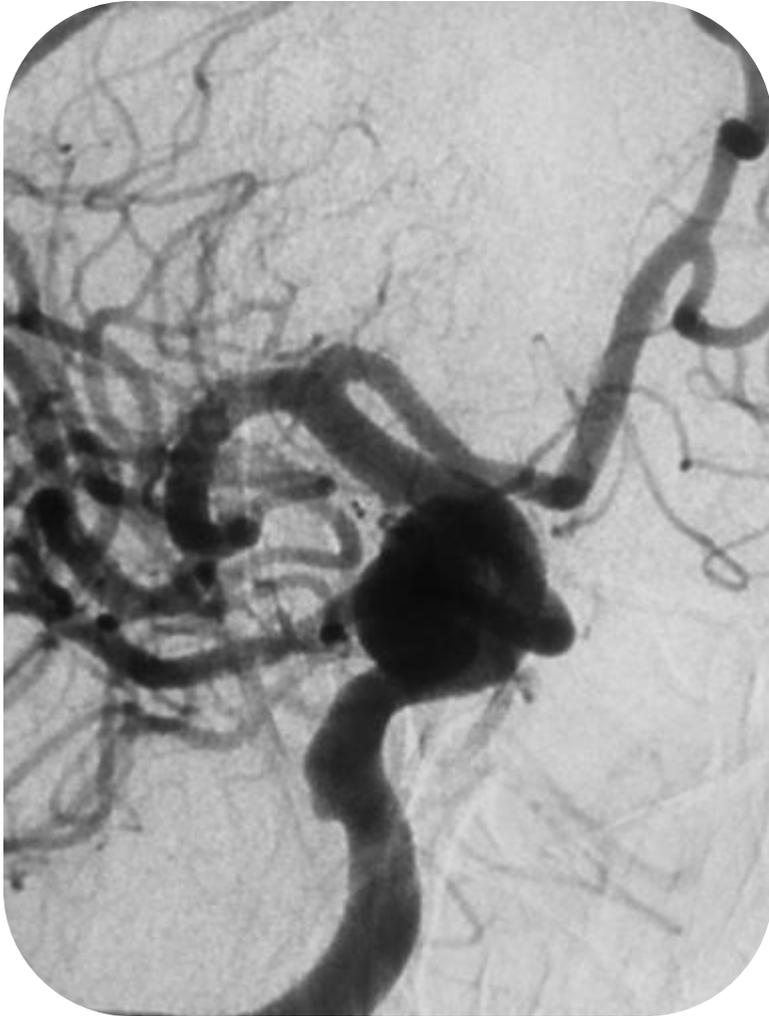


Illustration showing a **fusiform thrombosed holobasilar aneurysm** with multiple patent branches on the walls of the aneurysm with preserved flow in them through the thrombus

**These aneurysms are not good candidates for flow diversion and carry a high risk of brainstem stroke**

# Can you use flow diverters for both?



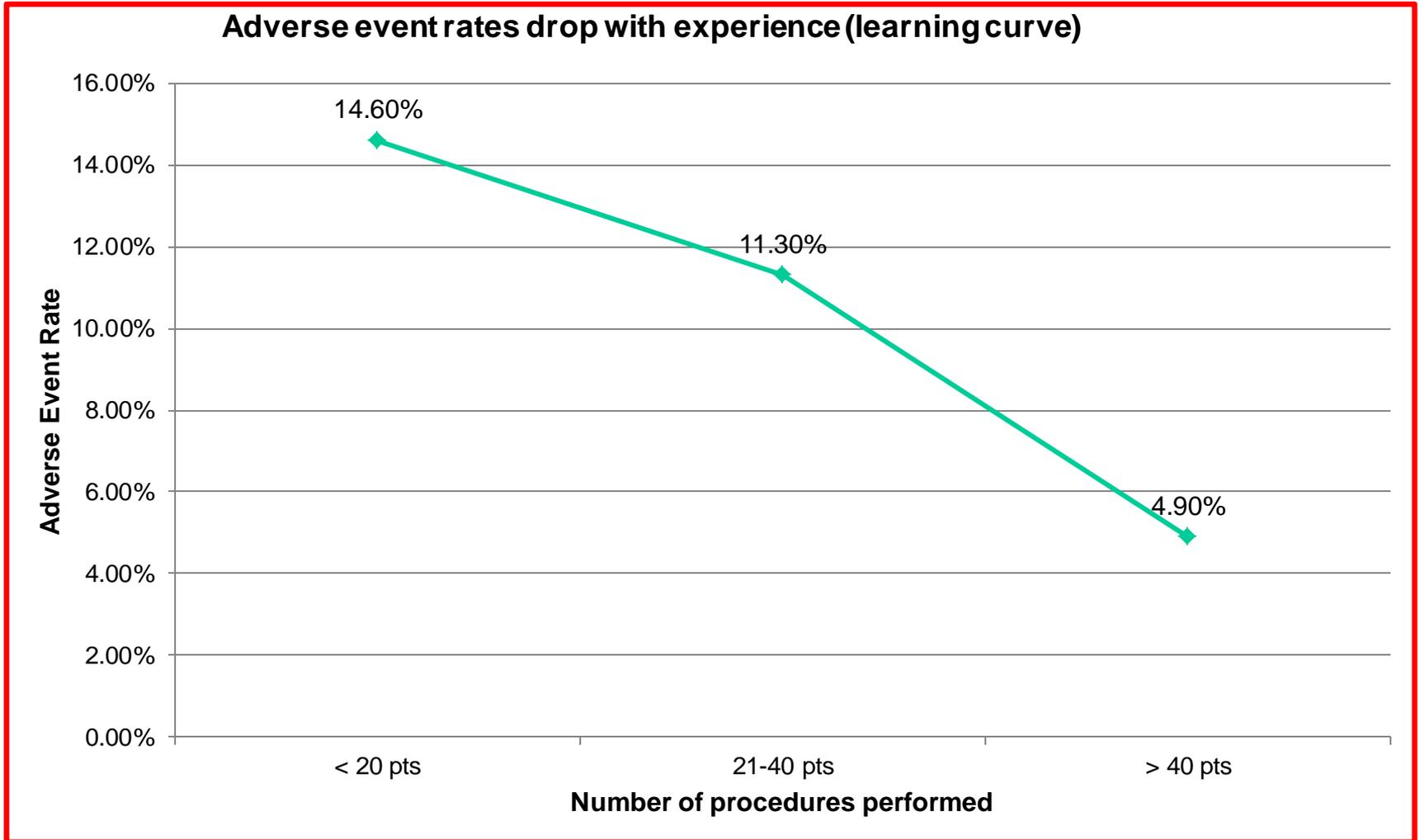
Carotid



Basilar

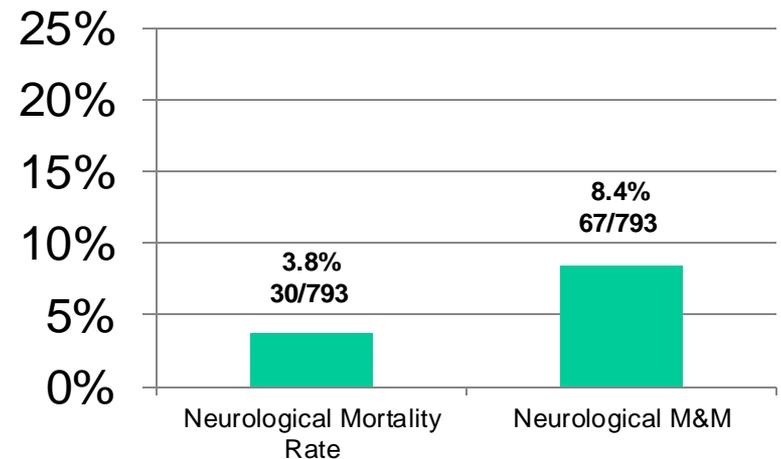
# Learning Curve of FD

Data from intrePED registry



## **IntrePED (International Retrospective Study of the Pipeline Embolization Device: A Multi-center Aneurysm Treatment Study)**

<b>Design</b>	Multi-center, retrospective, post-market registry
<b>Objective</b>	Determine the incidence of important safety outcomes in patients who have undergone Pipeline™ embolization for intracranial aneurysms in a true clinical setting
<b>Primary Endpoint</b>	Rate of neurologic adverse events after treatment with Pipeline™
<b>Population &amp; Sample Size</b>	906 Aneurysms in 793 patients treated with the Pipeline™ since approval
<b>Sites</b>	17 centers worldwide



Patient Characteristics	Posterior Circulation
Number of Aneurysms	95
Number of Patients	91
Follow-up duration (median)	22.4 +/- 10.5
<b>Procedure time (min)</b>	
Mean +/- SD (N)	98.3+/- 51.4 (85)
Median, range (min, max)	88.0 (34 – 294)

# IntraPED posterior circulation

Location	Saccular	Fusiform	Dissecting	Others	Total
PCA	2 (13.3)	5 (33.4)	6 (40.0)	2 (13.3)	15
BA	22 (50.0)	12 (27.3)	7 (15.9)	3 (6.8)	44
VA	7 (21.2)	11 (33.4)	14 (42.4)	1 (3.0)	33
PICA	3 (100.0)	0	0	0	3
Total	34	28	27	6	95

# IntrePED posterior circulation

<b>Major Complications</b>	<b>Fusiform</b>	<b>Dissecting</b>	<b>Saccular</b>	<b>Other</b>
Neurological morbidity	5/26 (19.2%)	1/26 (3.9%)	2/35 (5.7%)	0/4 (0%)
Neurological mortality	3/26 (11.5%)	1/26 (3.9%)	3/35 (8.6%)	0/4 (0%)
Neurological morbidity & mortality	7/26 (26.9%)	1/26 (3.9%)	4/35 (11.4%)	0/4 (0%)

# Summary and Conclusion

- Major complications after PEDs treatment in posterior circulation aneurysms were ischemic stroke in 6, hemorrhage in 2, spontaneous aneurysm rupture in 1, and death in 7 patients among 91 patients with 95 posterior circulation aneurysms treated.
- Use of PEDs  $\geq 3$  was a strong predictor for morbidity and mortality after placement of Pipeline Flow Diverter in patients with posterior circulation aneurysms
- Fusiform aneurysms were also a predictor for morbidity and mortality after placement of PEDs in posterior circulation.

# Reports of flow diversion for posterior circulation aneurysms

Authors & Year	No. of Patients	No. of Fusiform Aneurysms	No. of Ischemic Complications (%)	No. of Hemorrhagic Complications (%)	No. of Disabilities Related to PEDs (%)	No. of Deaths Related to PEDs (%)	Mean FU (mos)
Phillips et al., 2012 (3 centers)	32	20	3 (9.4)	2 (6.3)	3 (9.4)	0	21
Siddiqui et al., 2012	7	3	5 (71.4)	2 (28.6)	1 (14.3)	2 (28.6)	4.5
Chalouhi et al., 2013	7	2	0	0	0	0	5
Toth et al., 2015	6 (7 aneurysms)	2	3 (50)	0	2 (33)	1 (16.6)	14.5
Munich et al., 2014	12	12	4 (33)	0	3 (25)	1 (8.3)	11
Buffalo series, 2014	12	12	1 (8.3)	0	1 (8.3)	0	22

*Journal of Neurosurgery*



# Chicago experience on endovascular treatment of vertebrobasilar aneurysms

Nov 2014

NOVEMBER 2014 Volume 121, Number 5

[WWW.THEJNS.ORG](http://WWW.THEJNS.ORG)



American  
Association of  
Neurological  
Surgeons

Approach:

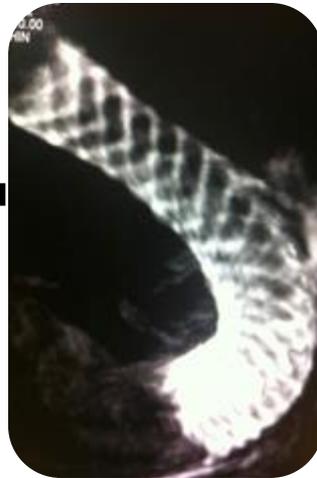
**Hybrid stent/FD overlapping construct  
staged contralateral VA sacrifice and or coiling of  
aneurysm**

Goals:

- 1) Variable Arterial Coverage
- 2) Gradual aneurysm thrombosis



+



=

Increased Safety?

## 1) Protection of perforating arteries:

- rostral basilar artery may contain a higher density of perforating arteries
- these arteries may be more sensitive to changes in flow dynamics and acute aneurysm thrombosis
- territories served by these arteries may have more severe clinical manifestations when perforators are occluded

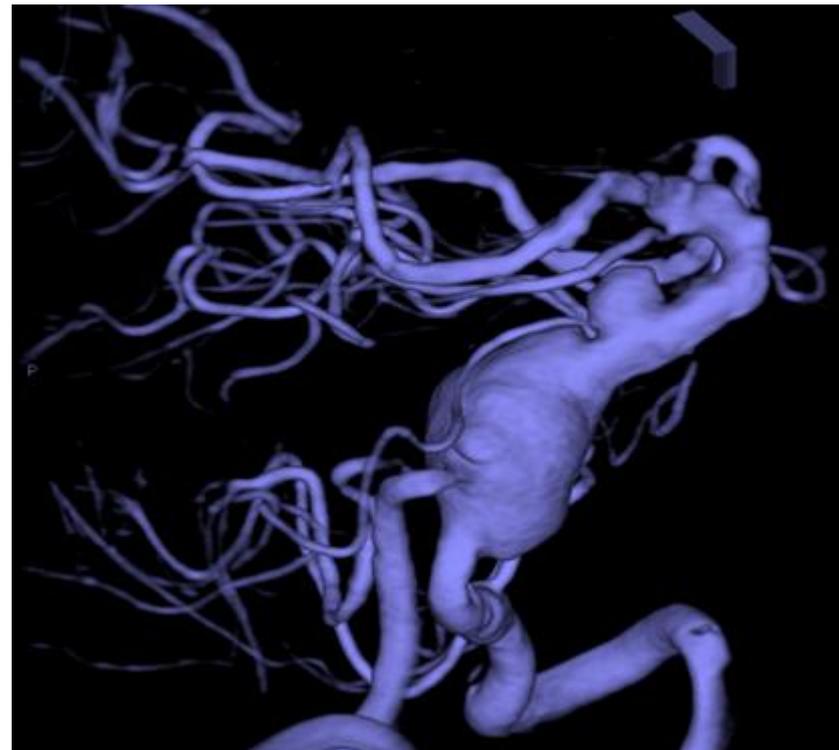
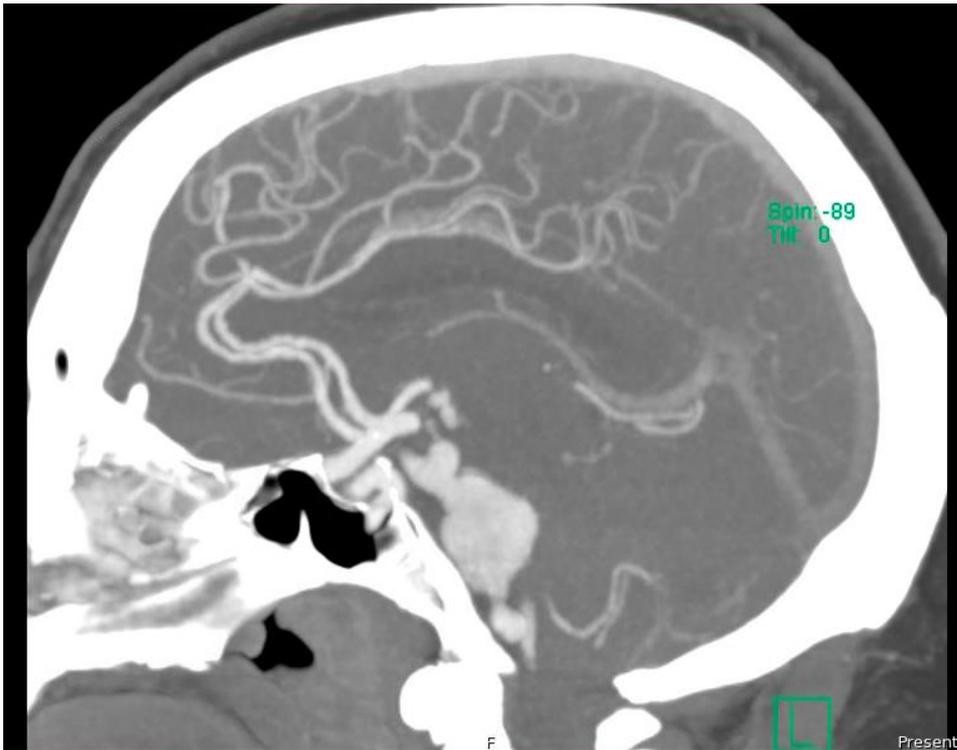
## 2) Staged contralateral vertebral artery occlusion

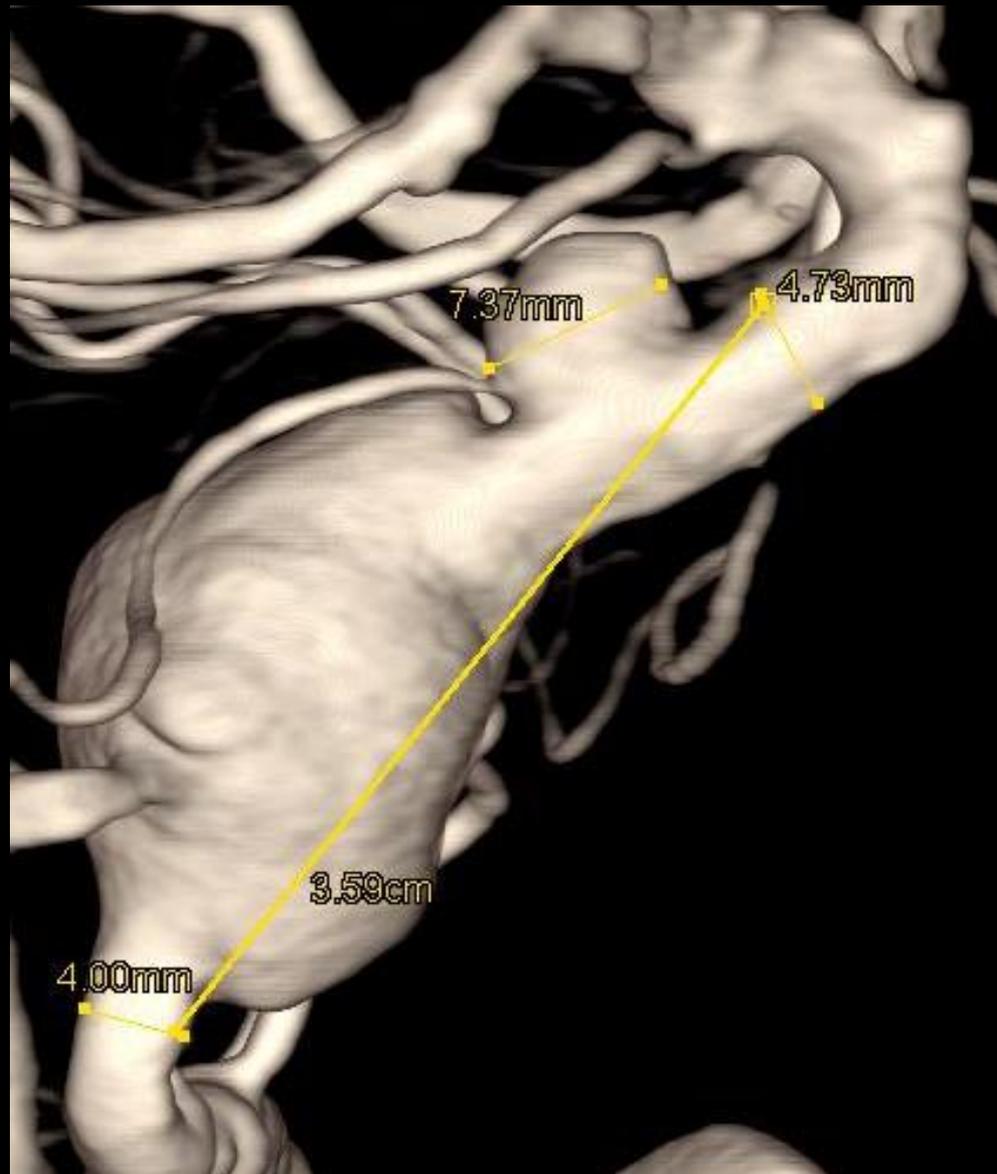
## 3) Anti-platelet therapy:

- confirmation of platelet inhibition
- strict adherence to dual agent anti-platelet therapy

63 year old female presented with right facial droop,  
dysarthria, and right tinnitus

Medical history: Hypertension & Obesity



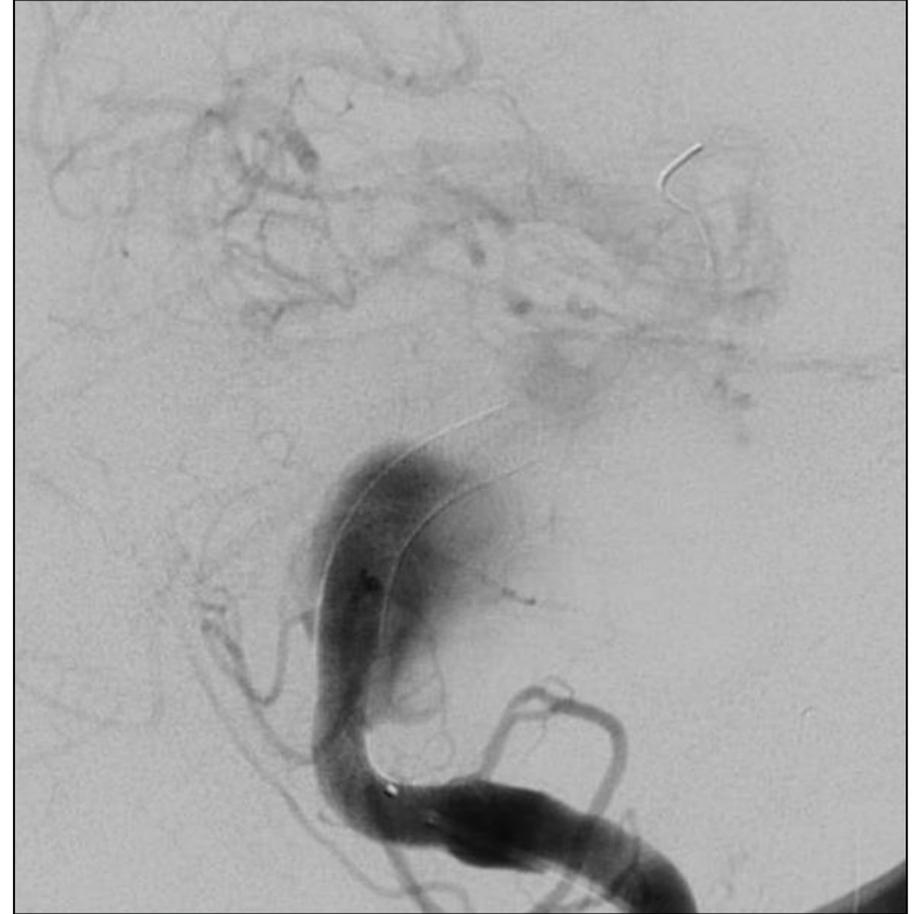
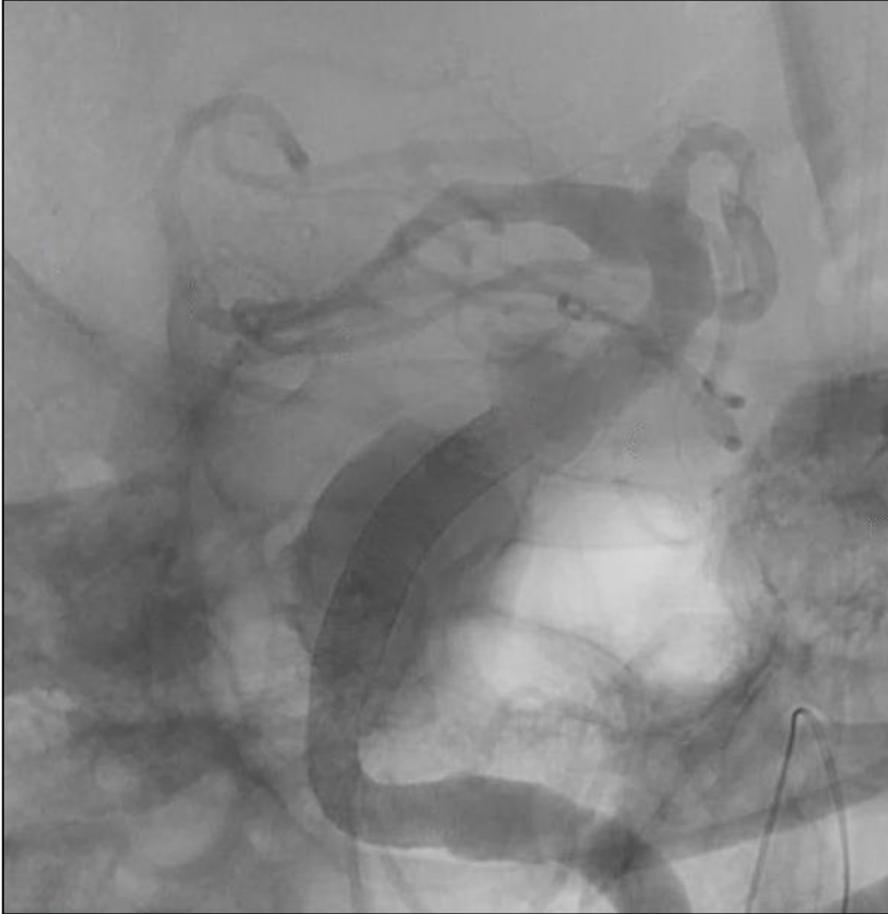


# Strategy

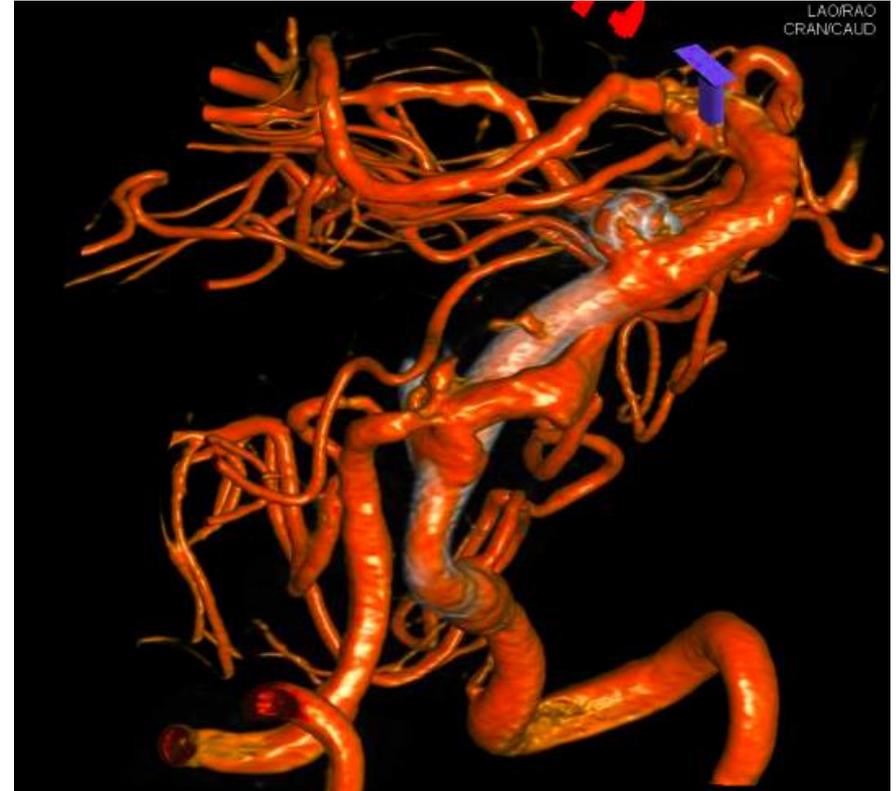
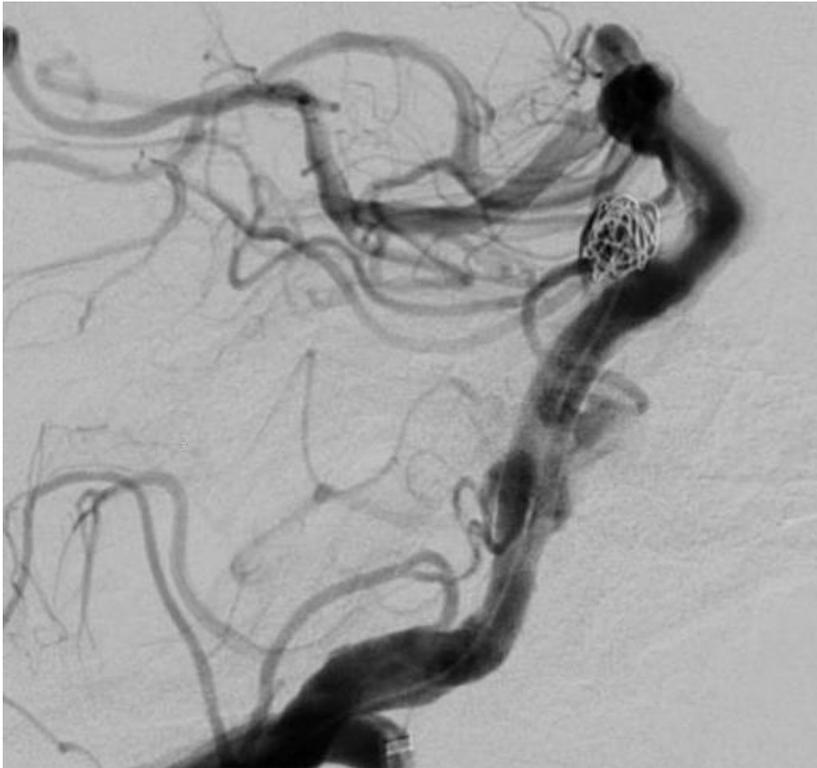
- 1<sup>st</sup> Stage
  - Build a hybrid construct with Enterprise and Pipeline across both aneurysms
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage
  - Coiling of sidewall aneurysm and possible sacrifice of right vertebral artery



4/19/2013 Placement of PED and enterprise (Hybrid construct)



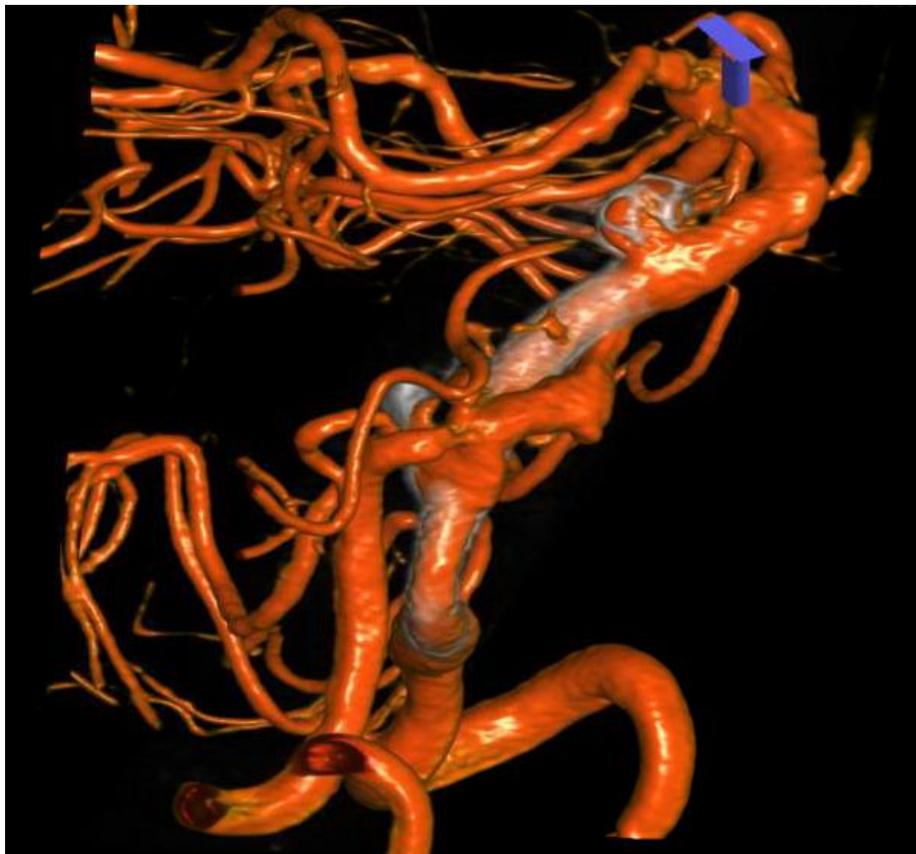
6/7/2013



Light coiling of AICA aneurysm

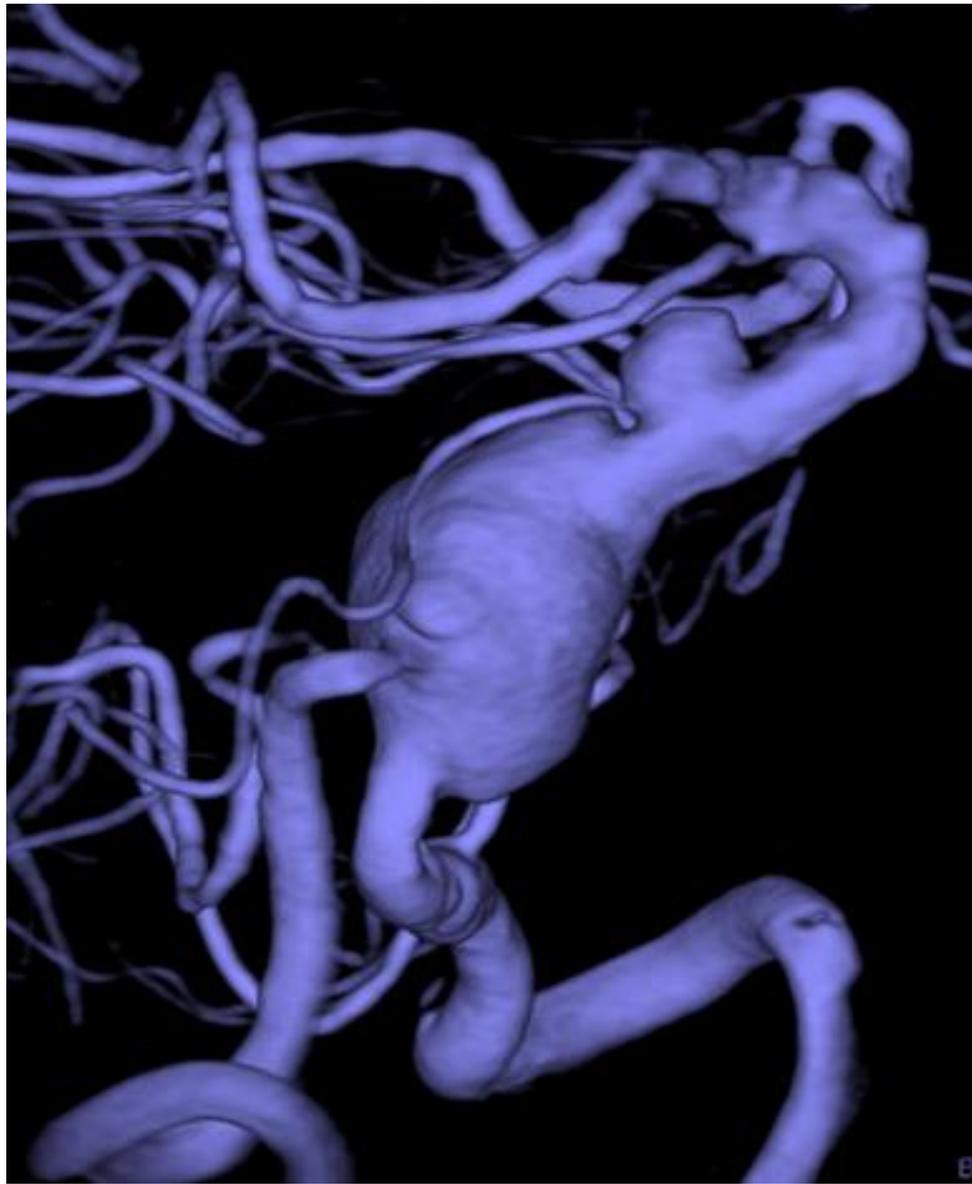
Decided **not** to occlude contralateral vertebral artery

6/7/2013

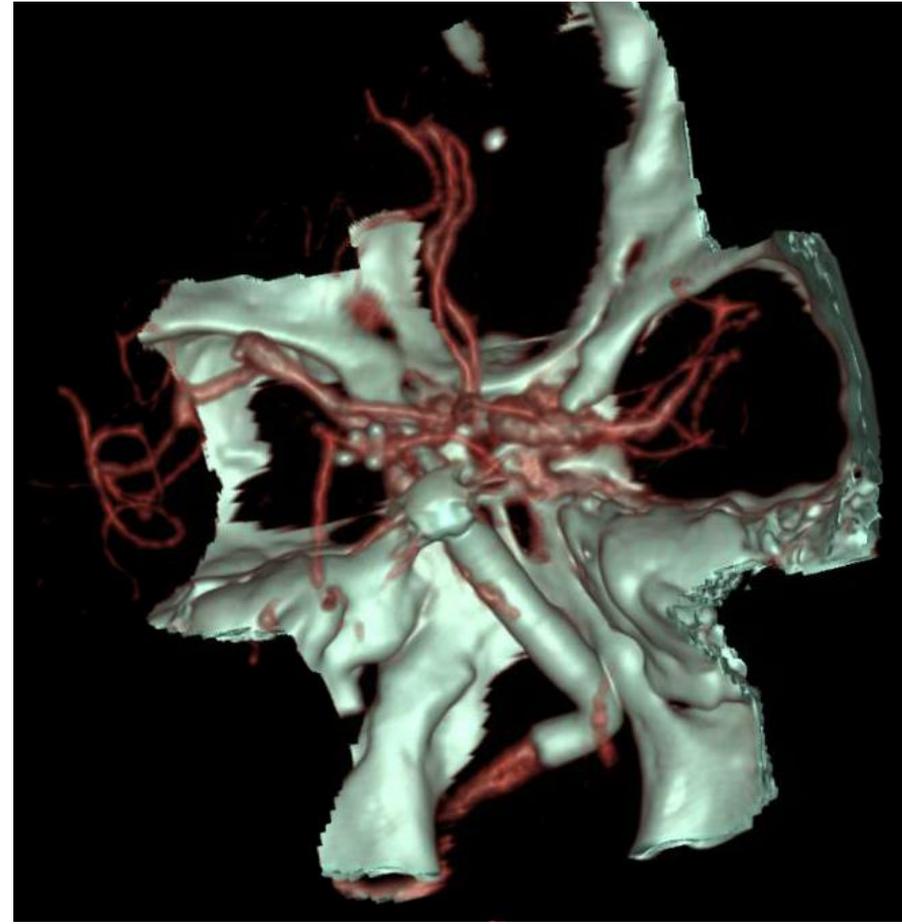
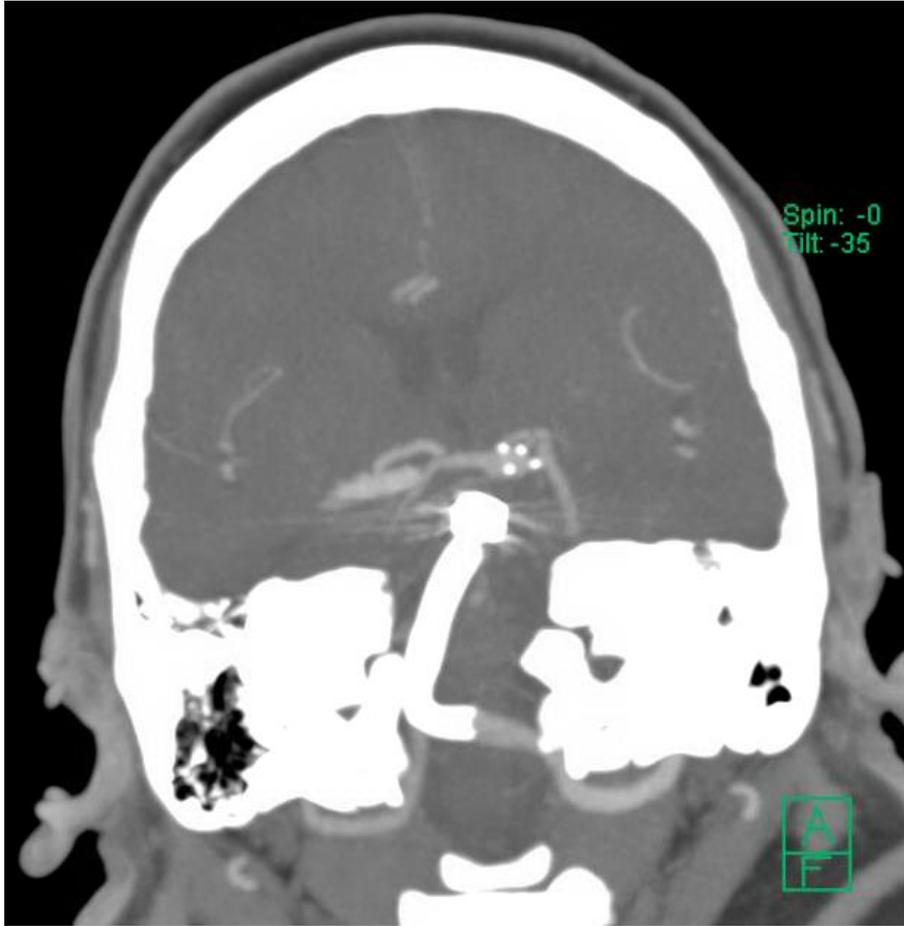


# 12 months follow up





9/20/13 Keep close imaging follow-up!!!!

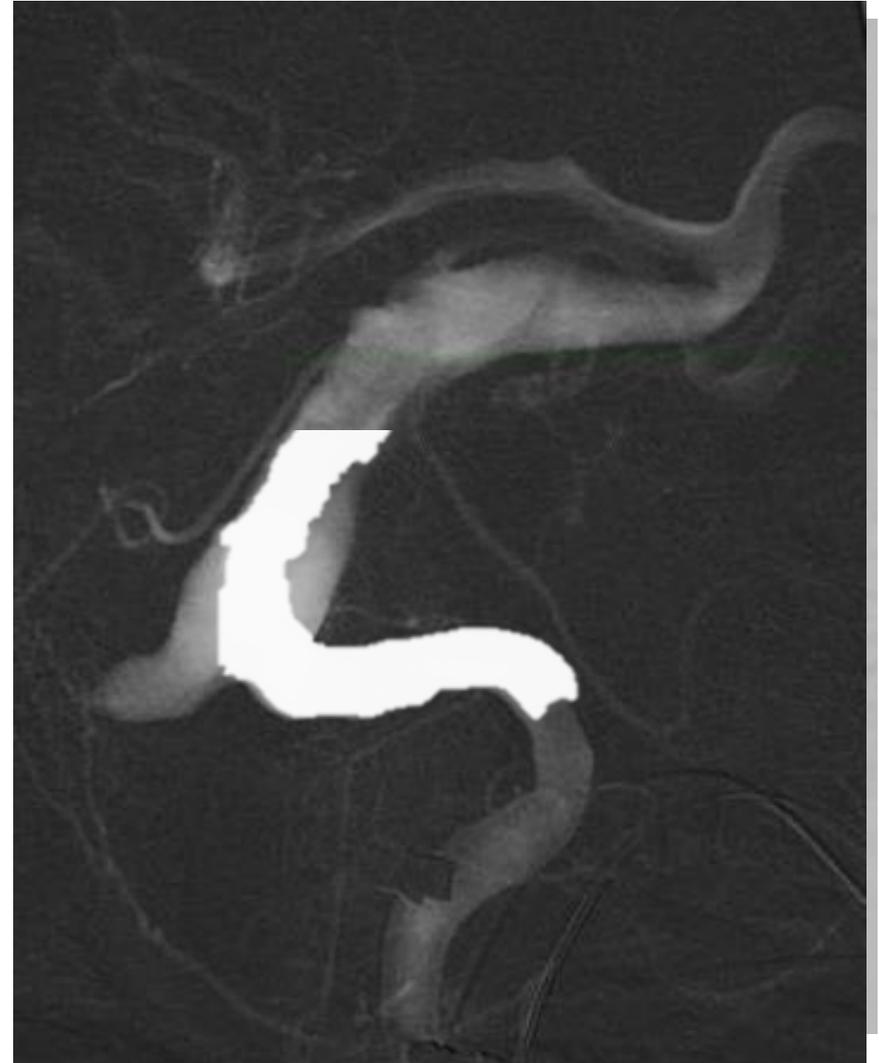
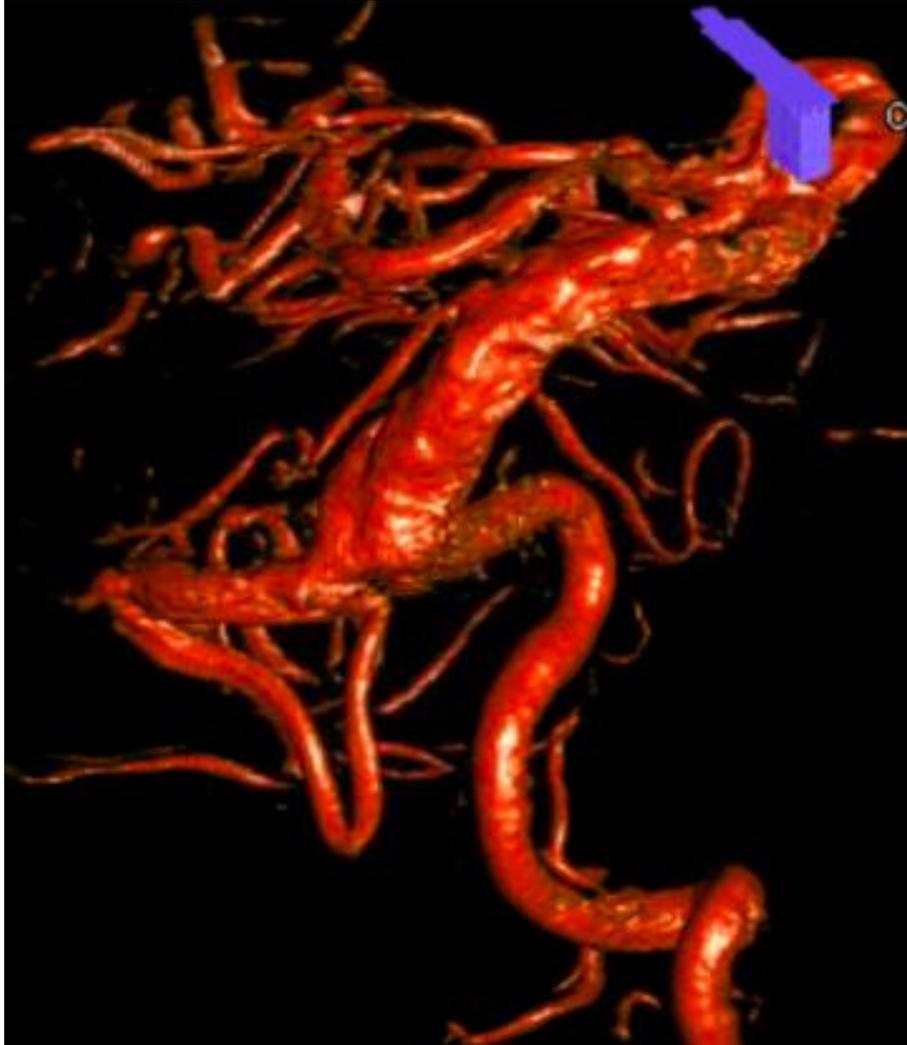


- HPI: Patient 53yo male with history of right side headache in 2013.
- CT showed fusiform basilar aneurysm, no SAH.
- Physical exam: neuro intact
- Several interventional procedures since then.

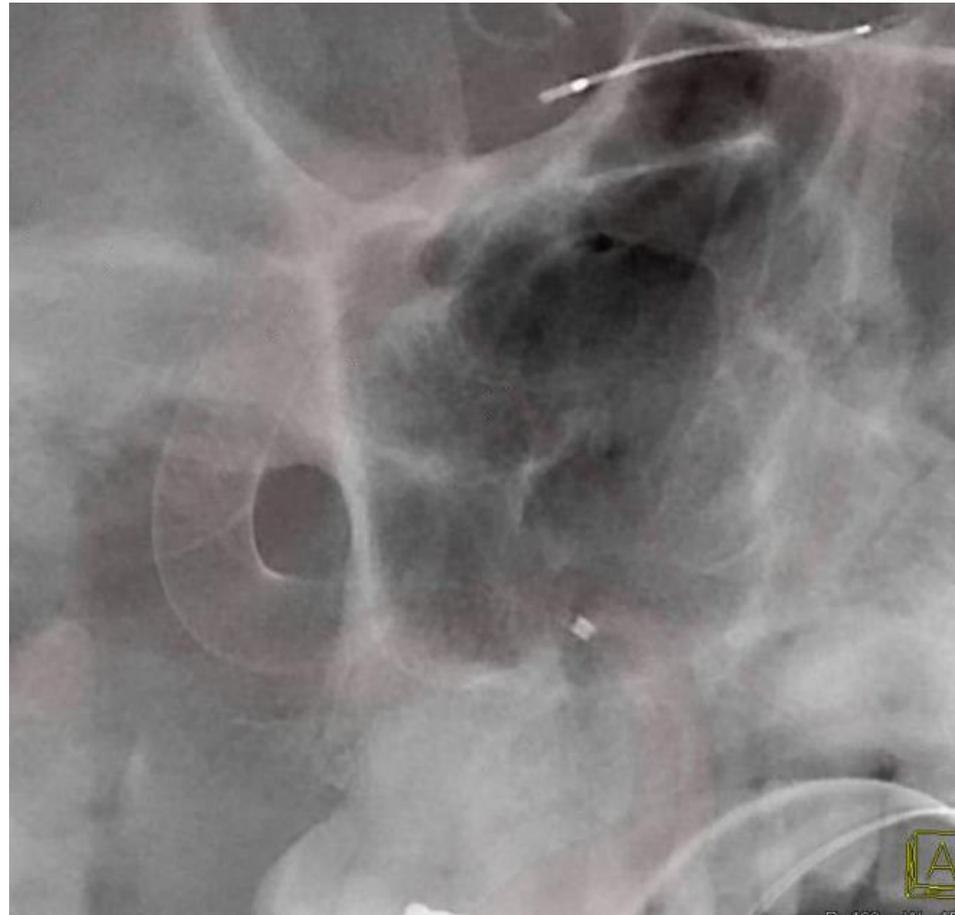
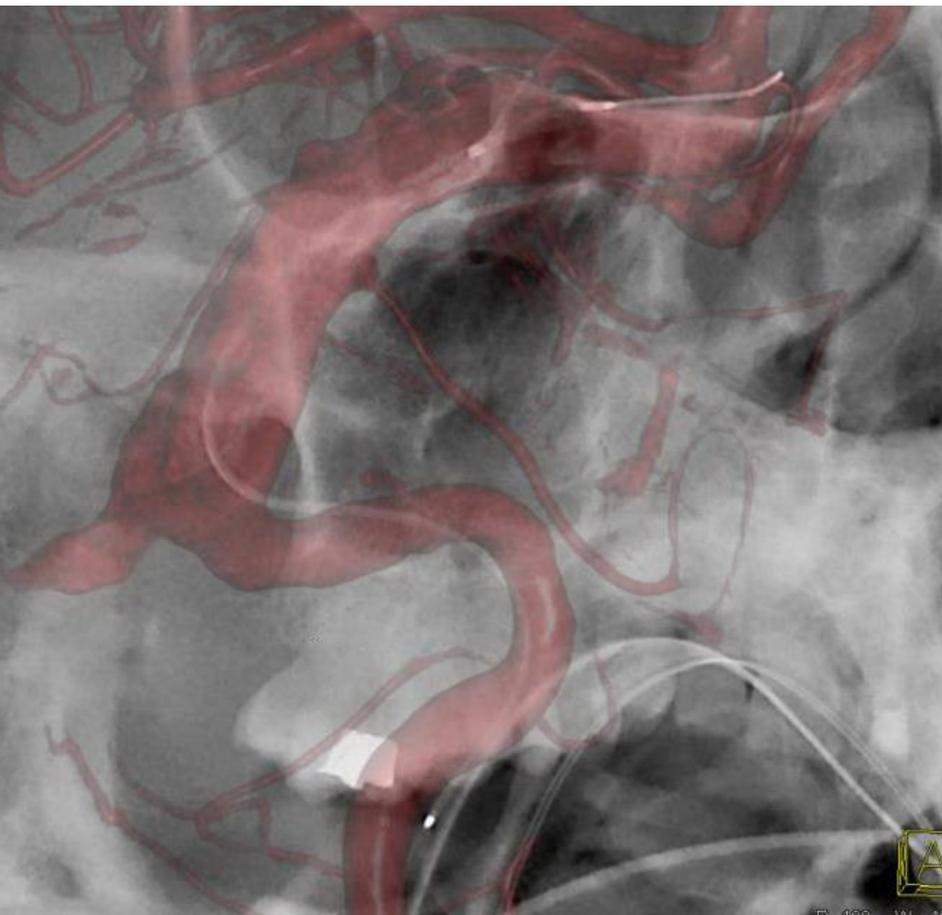
# First Angio 02/12/2013



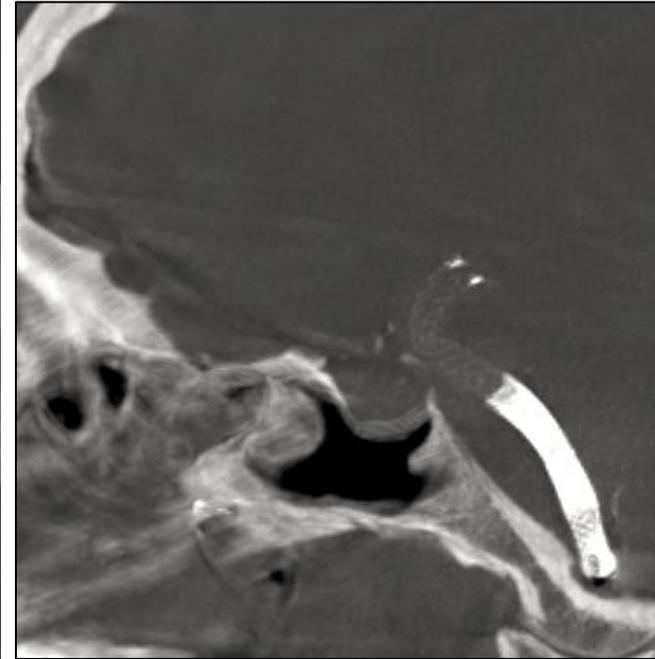
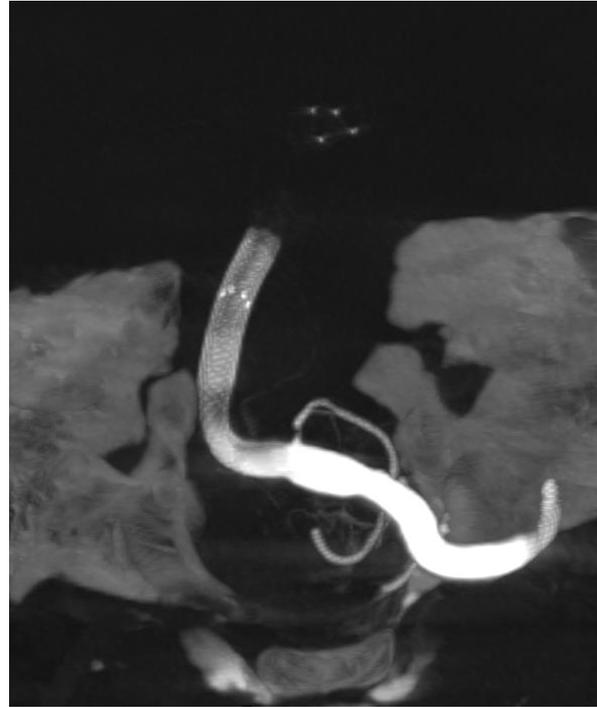
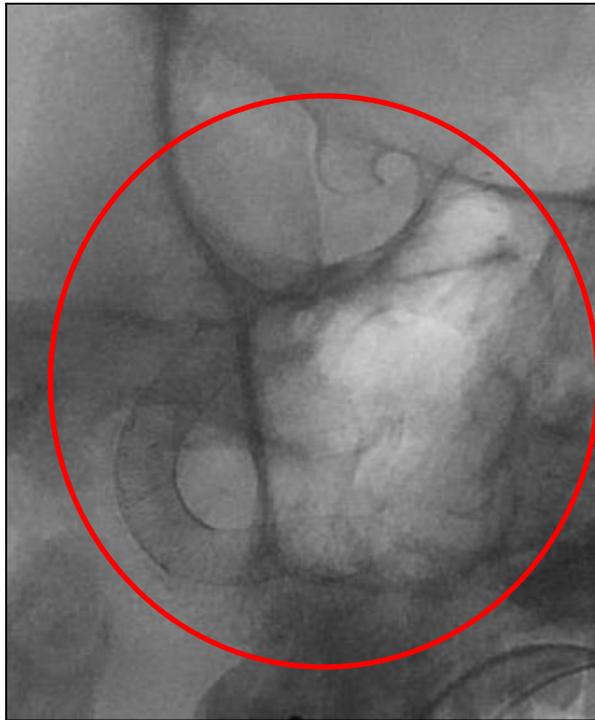
2/13/13 1<sup>st</sup> Step placement of PED proximal to AICAs



## 2/13/2013 – Placing enterprise stent distal to PED



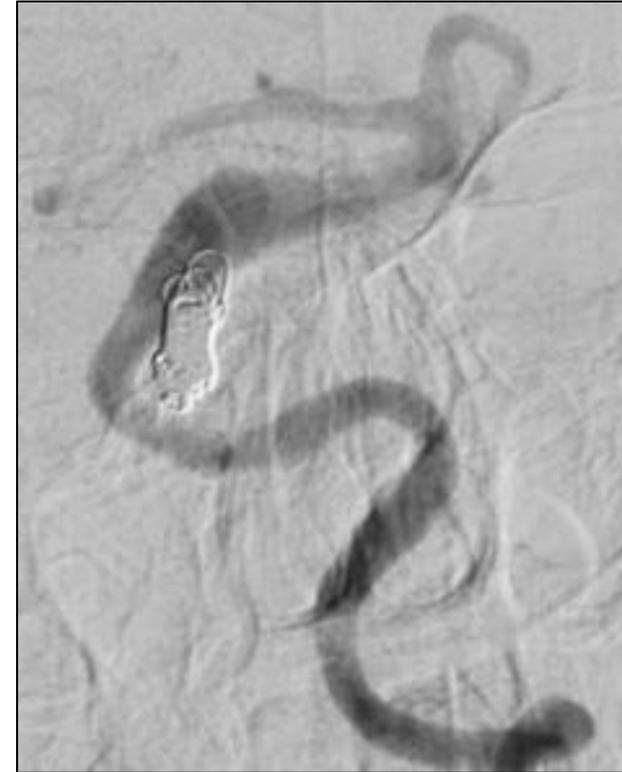
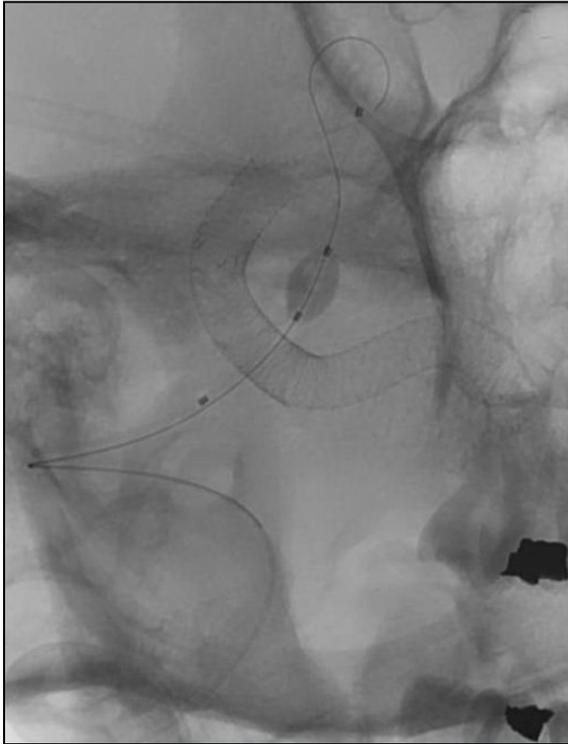
2/13/2013



2 months after the initial procedure, the patient presented with recurrence of symptoms

Headaches and worsening in diplopia

# Staged occlusion of contralateral vertebral



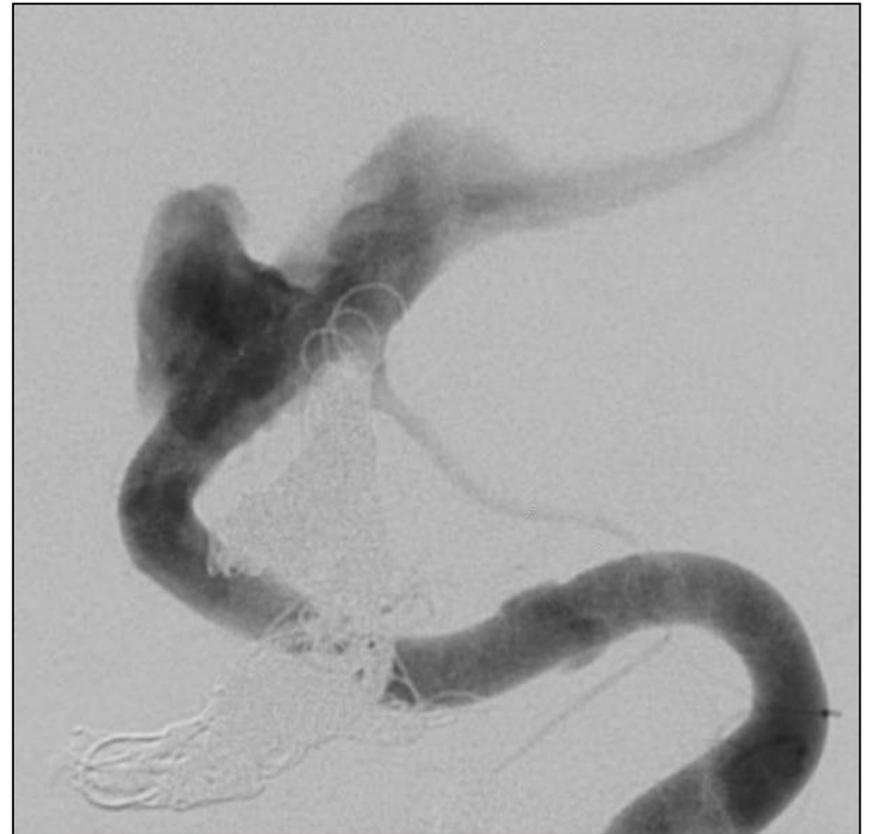
4/4/2013

Right VA occlusion Stage 2



10/17/2013

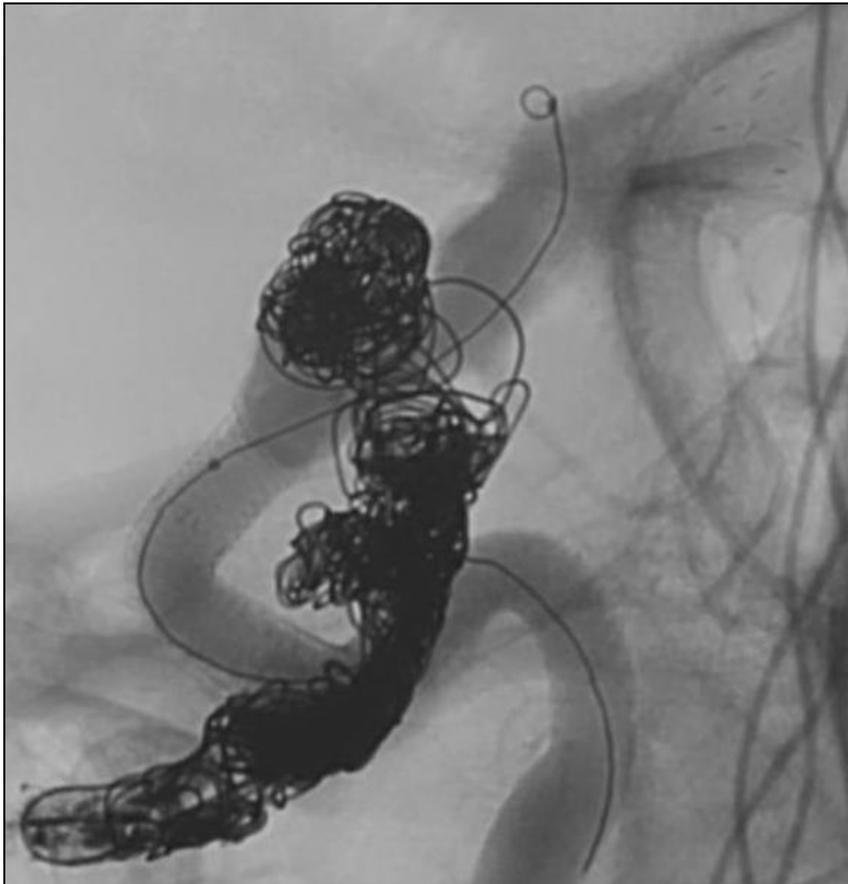
## Stent-assisted coil embolization of “new” aneurysm



10/17/2013

Stent-assisted coil embolization of recurrent aneurysm

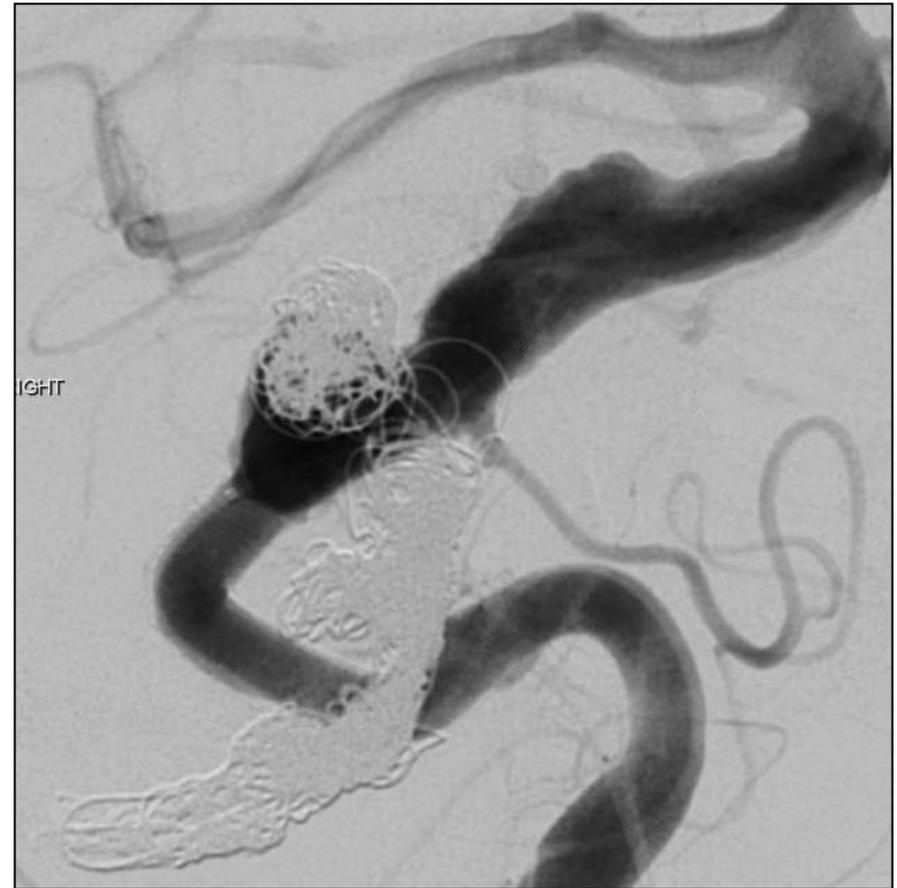
**Final device count: Two enterprise stents + 1 PED + Coils**



10/17/2013

Staged FD + Stent-assisted coil embolization

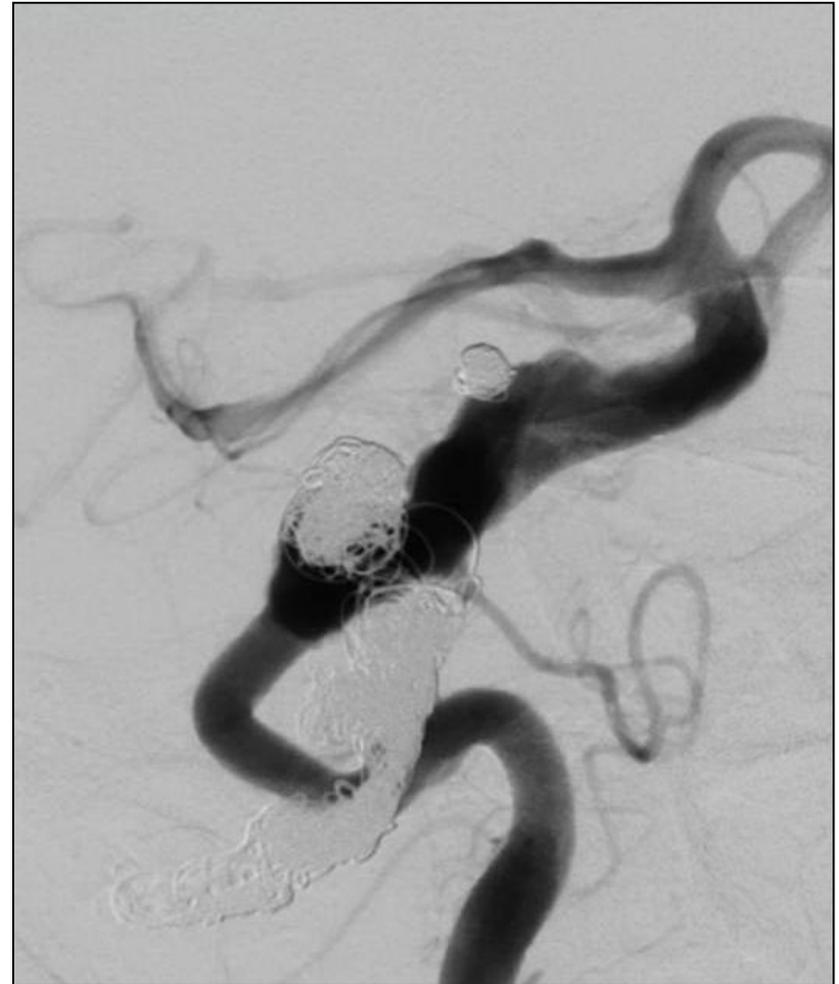
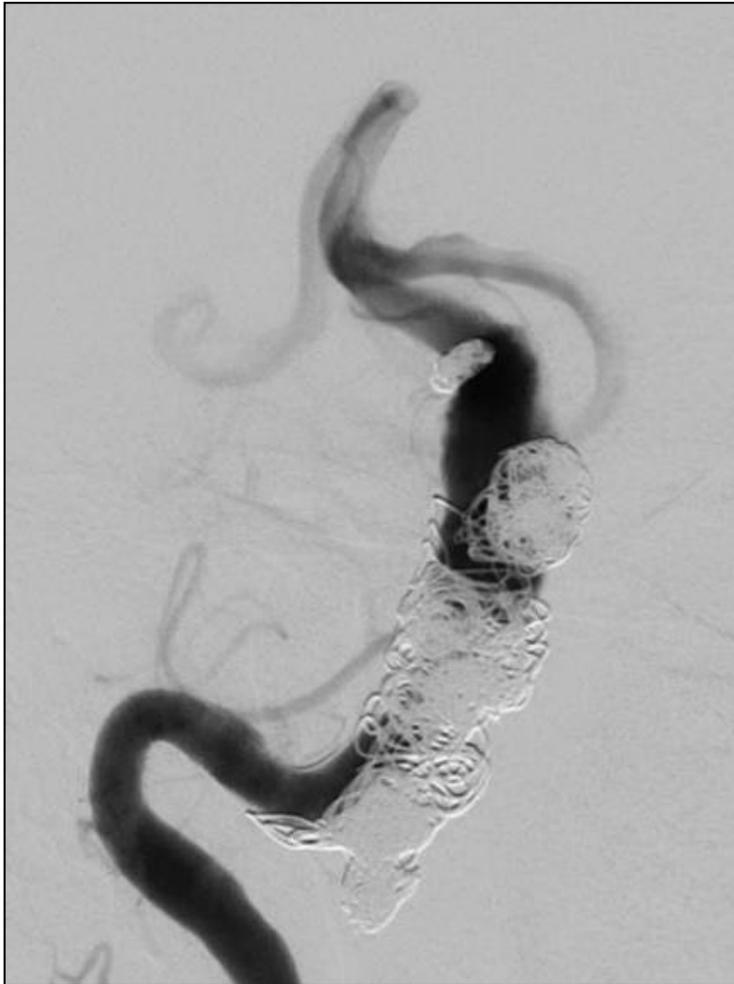
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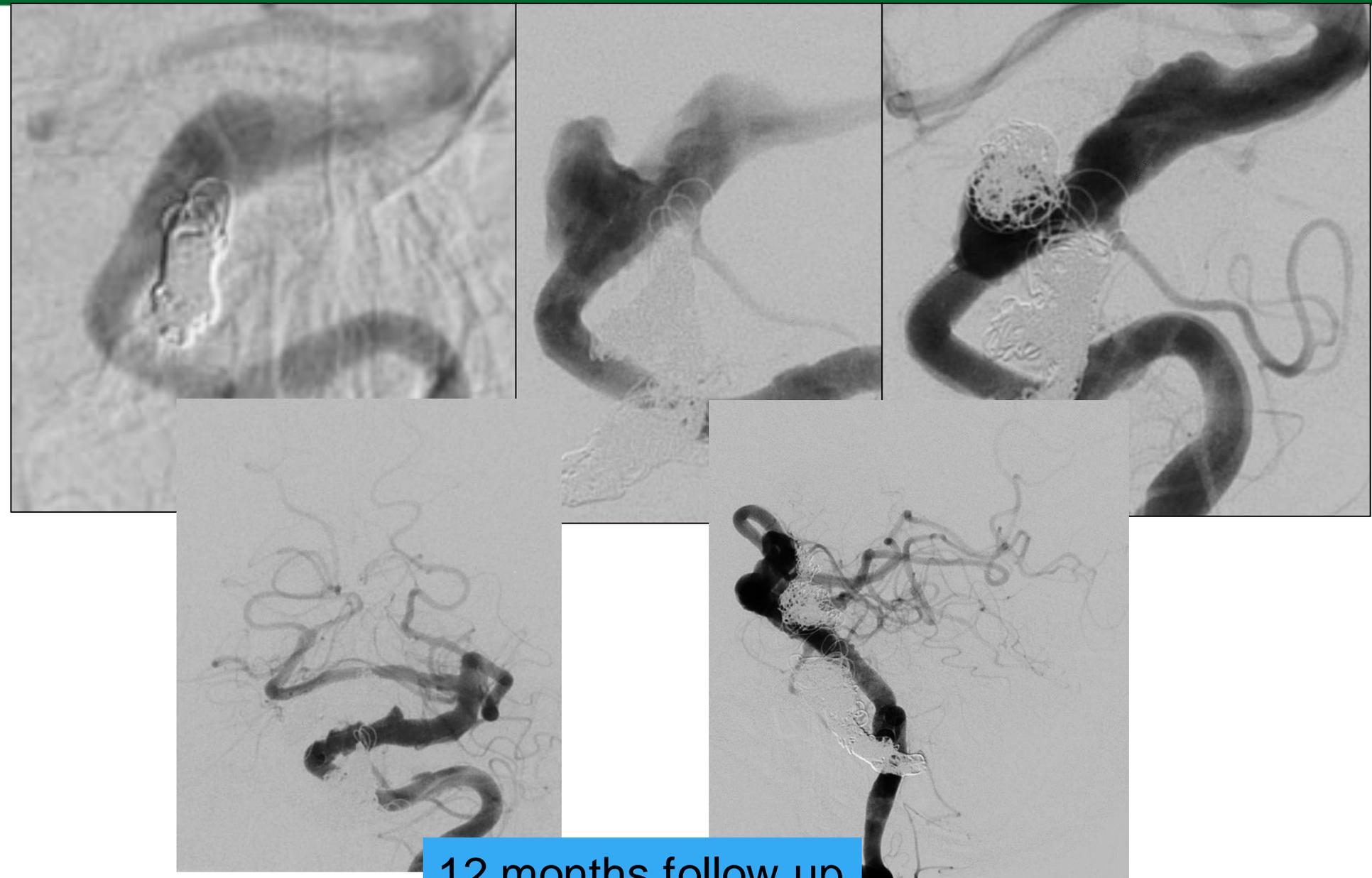


10/17/2013

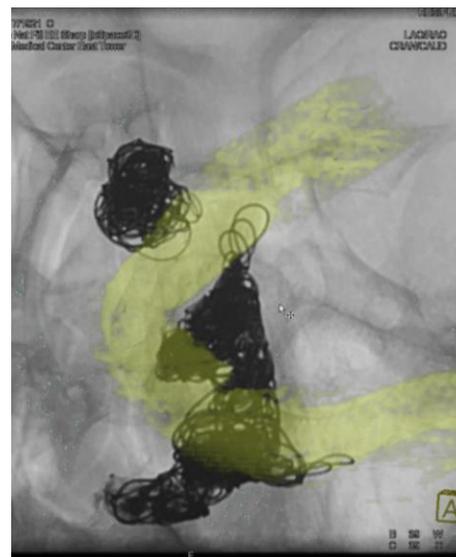
Staged FD + Stent-assisted coil embolization

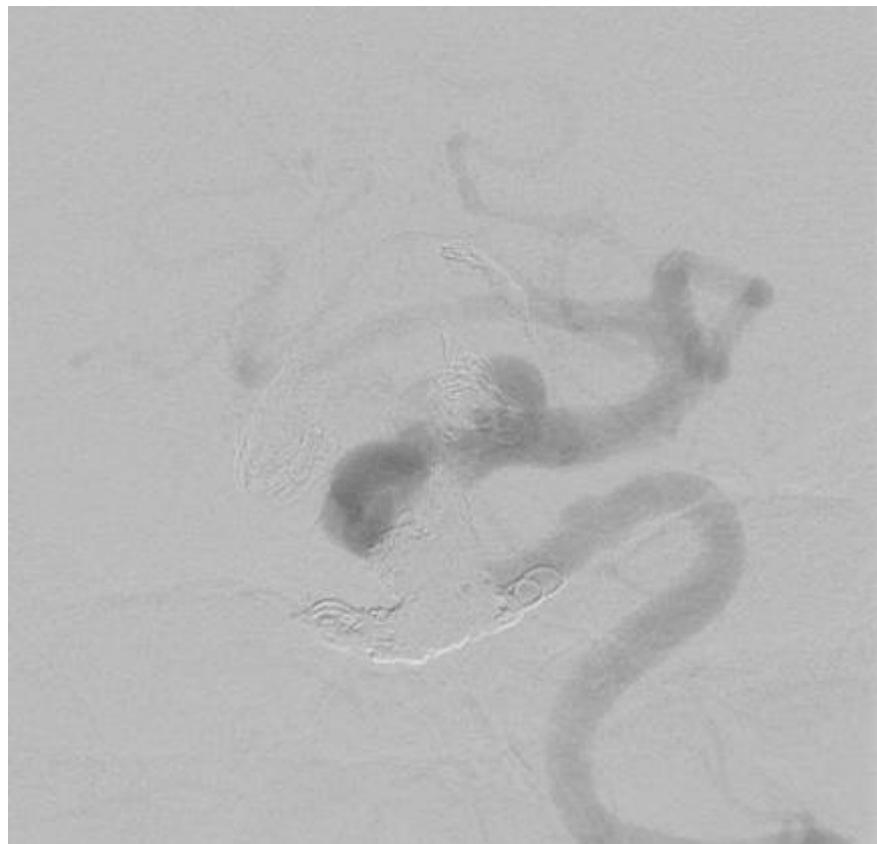
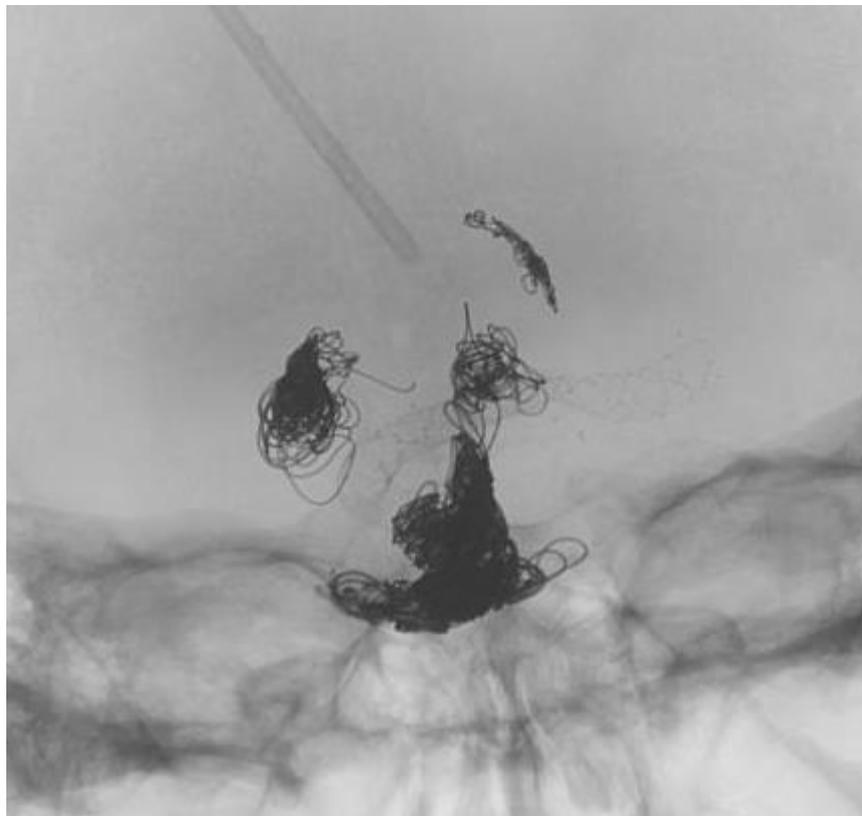
Final device count: Two enterprise stents + 1 PED + Coils

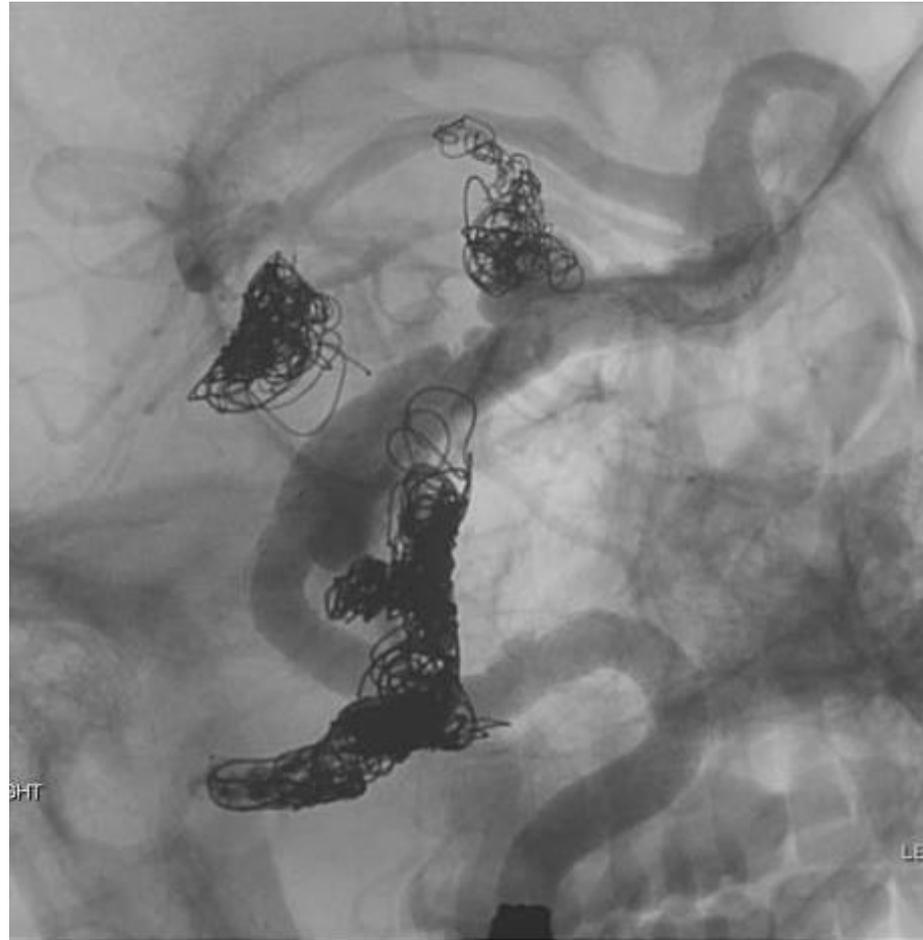


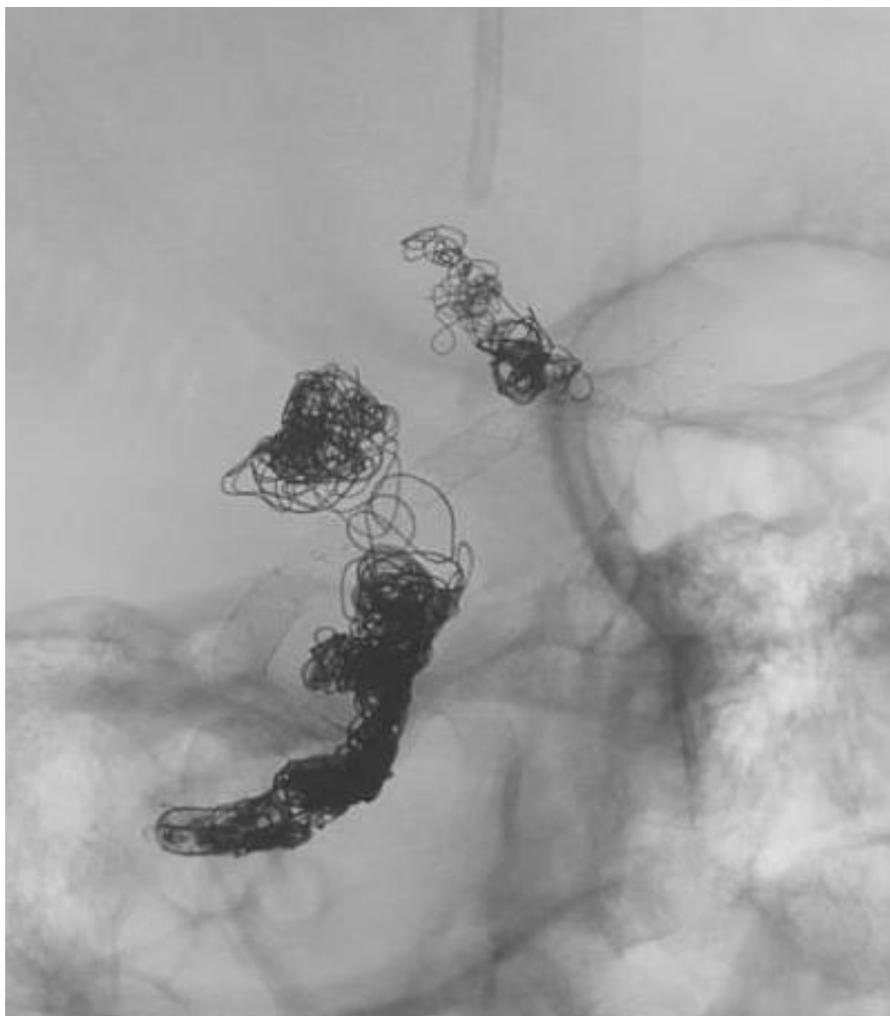


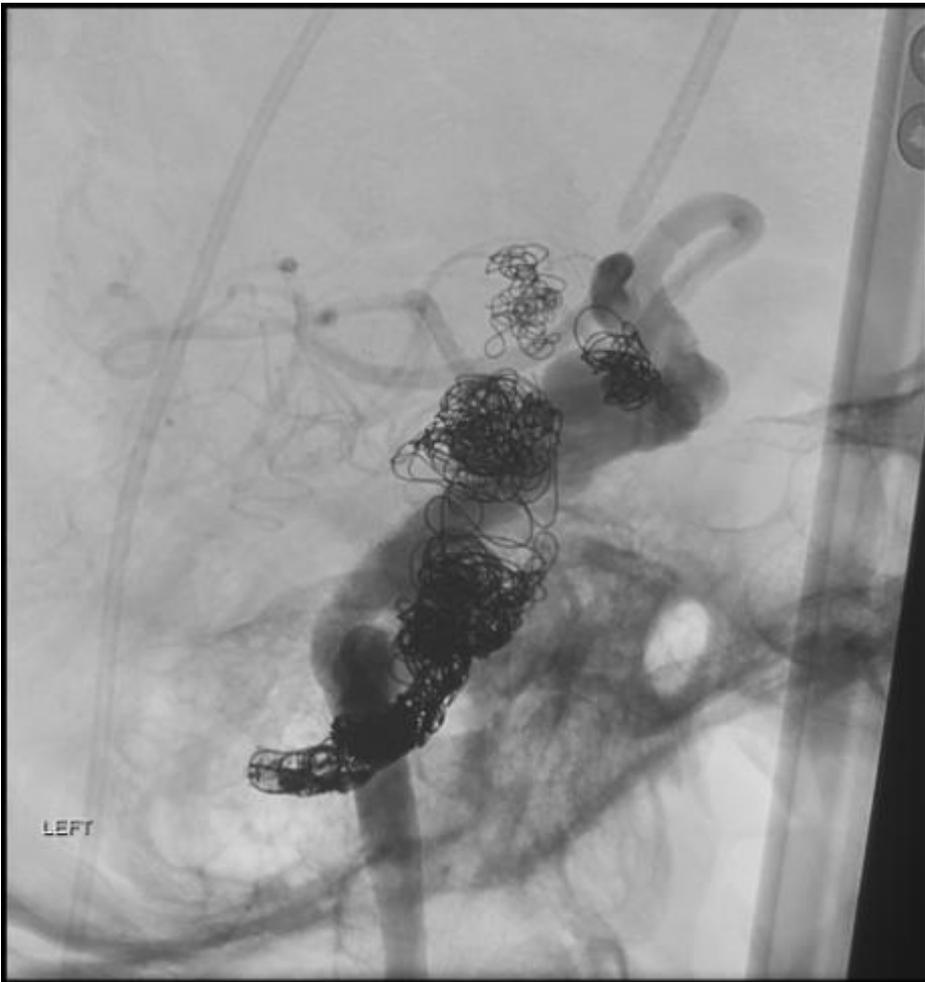
12 months follow up





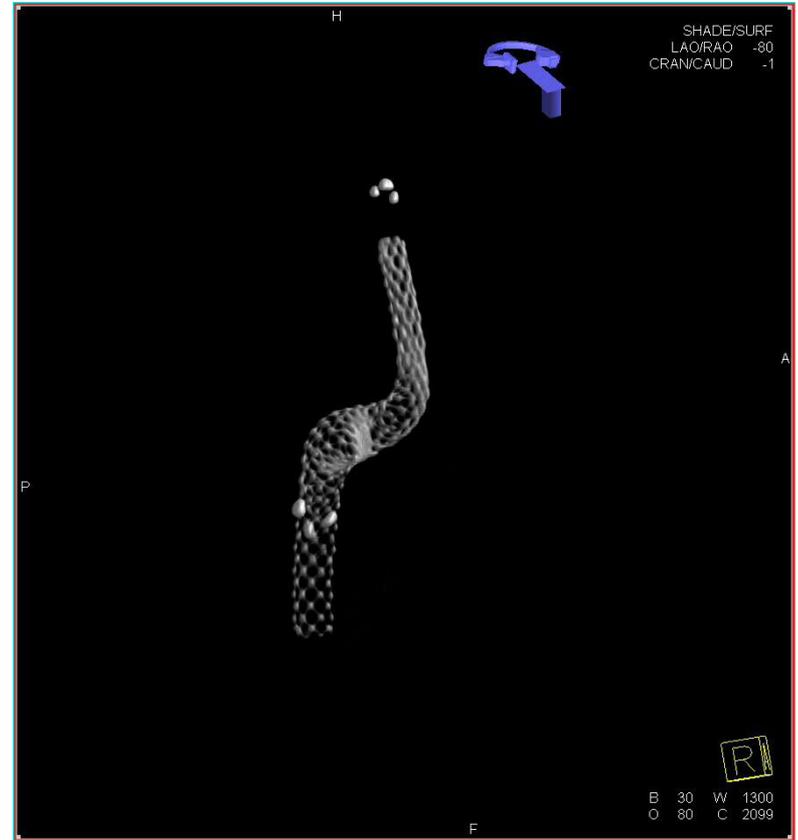
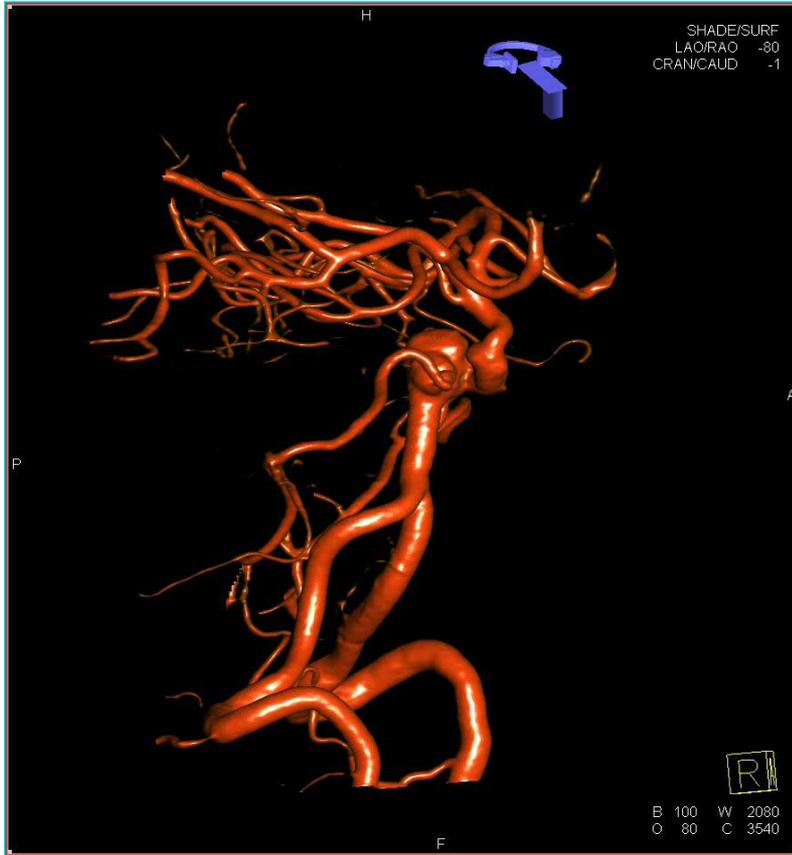






- HPI: Patient 54yo female with history of headaches for 2 years.
- CT/MRI showed tortuous fusiform aneurysm of the basilar artery.
- Parafalcine and right parietal meningioma.
- Physical exam: decrease sensation of left side of face, left arm and chest.
- Had right parietal craniotomy for tumor resection in 06/03/2013.

# Day of Treatment



# Day of Treatment



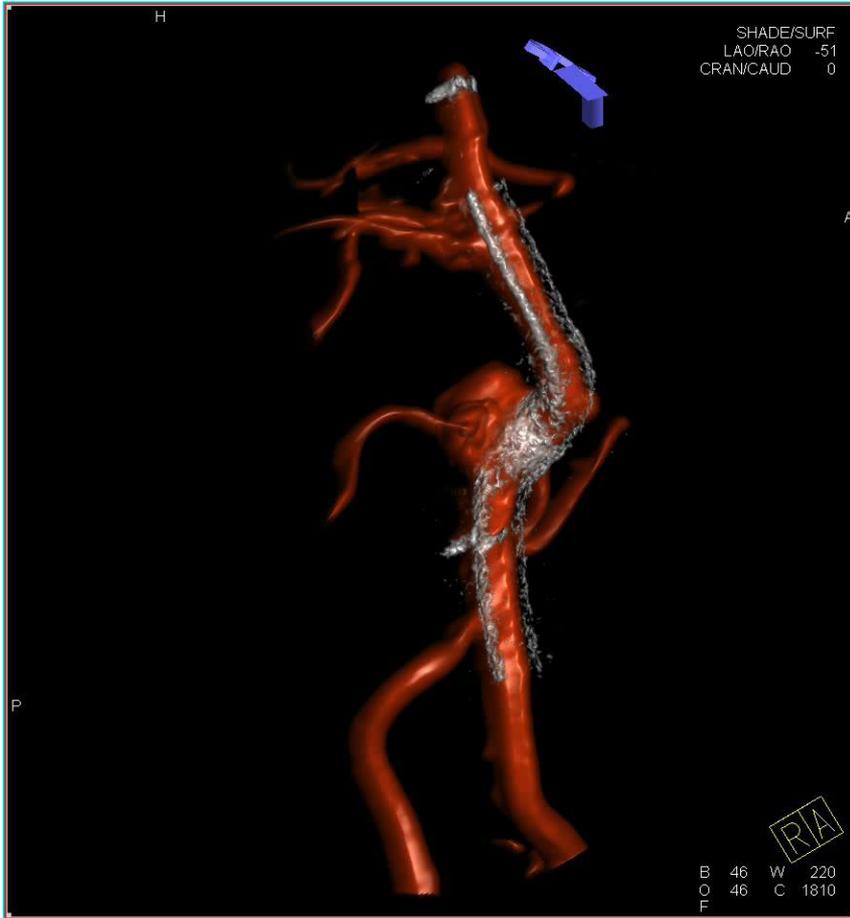
Pre Stent Deployment 3D  
DSA fused with post-  
stent deployment  
DynaCT Micro

Notice vessel  
deformation from device  
placement

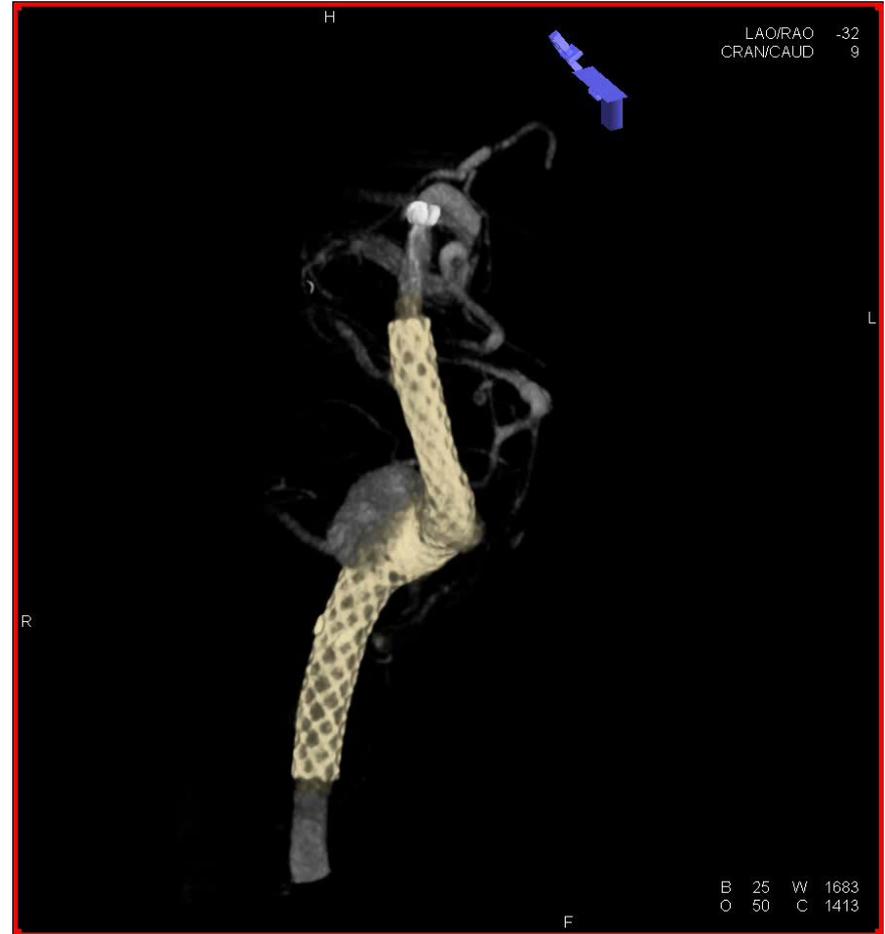
## WLNC 2014 Buenos Aires Follow Up Cases

- Basilar artery aneurysm s/p Pipeline-Enterprise hybrid construct
- 6 month angiogram revealed residual filling of aneurysm
- Discontinued dual anti-platelets
- Follow-up DSA demonstrating positive remodeling of aneurysm sac and preservation of branches
- mRS=0

# Follow Up



5s 3D DSA Dual-Volume

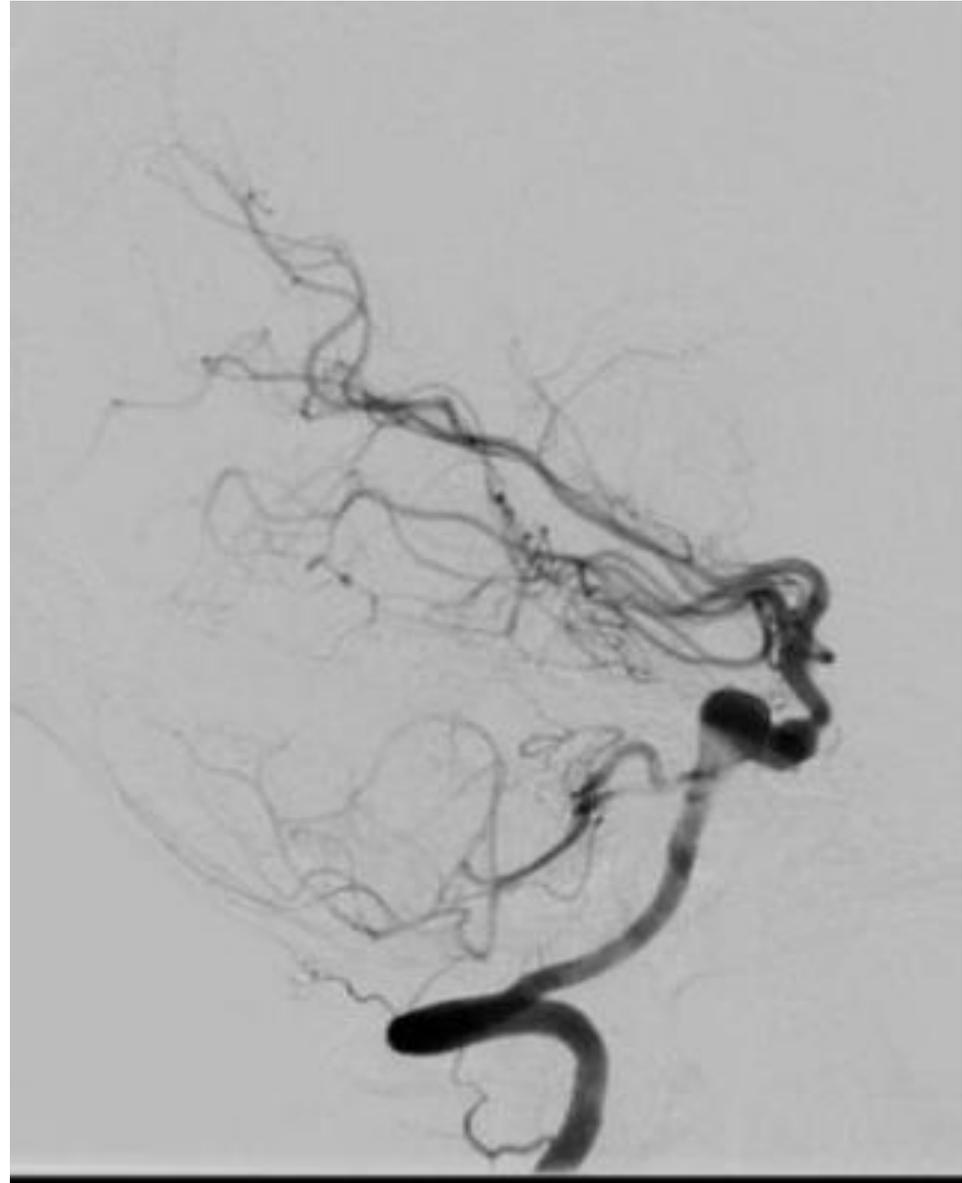
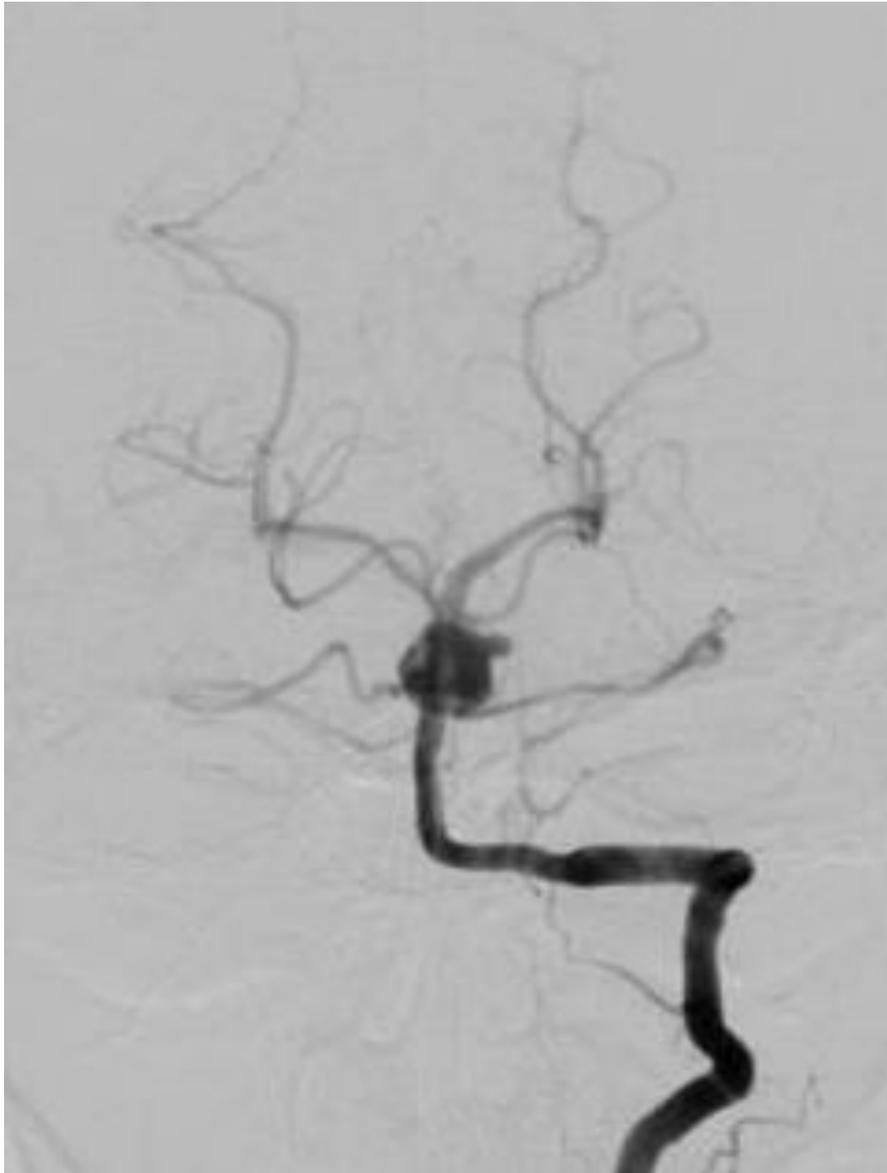


DynaCT Micro

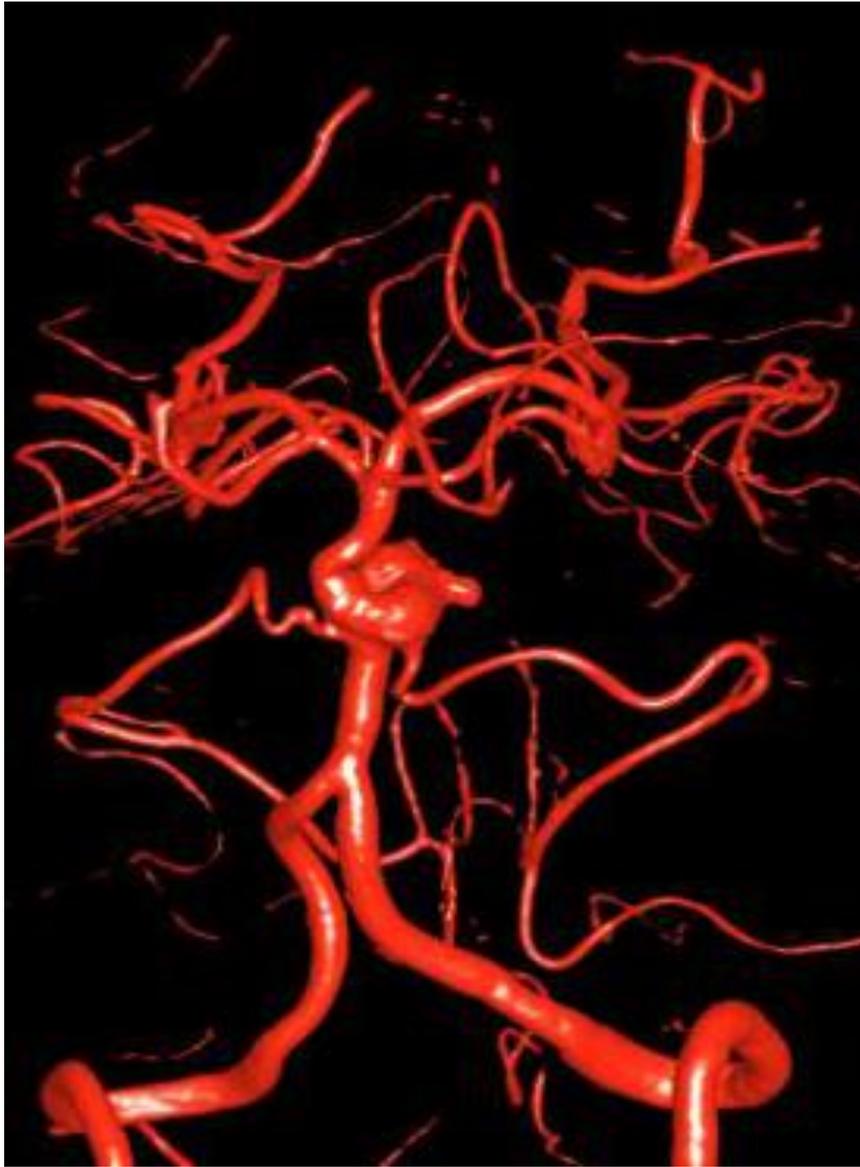


Excellent Neck Coverage and Good Wall Apposition

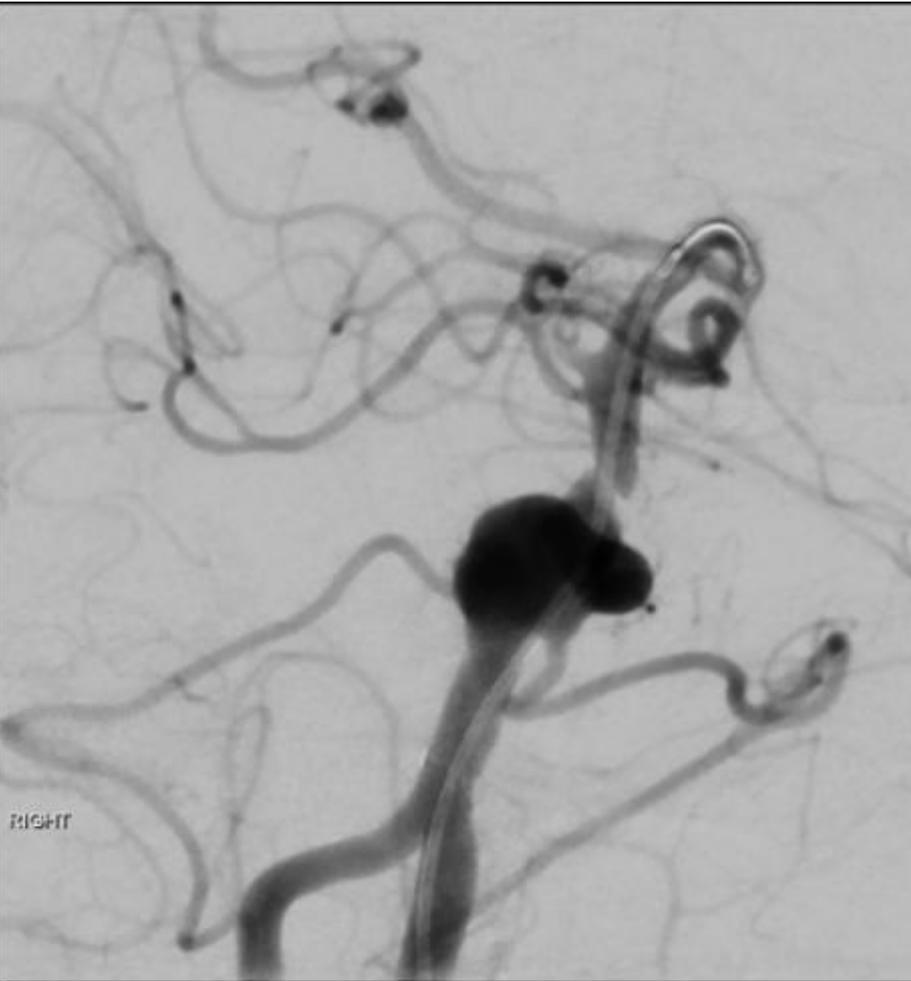
# First Angio AP and Lateral View

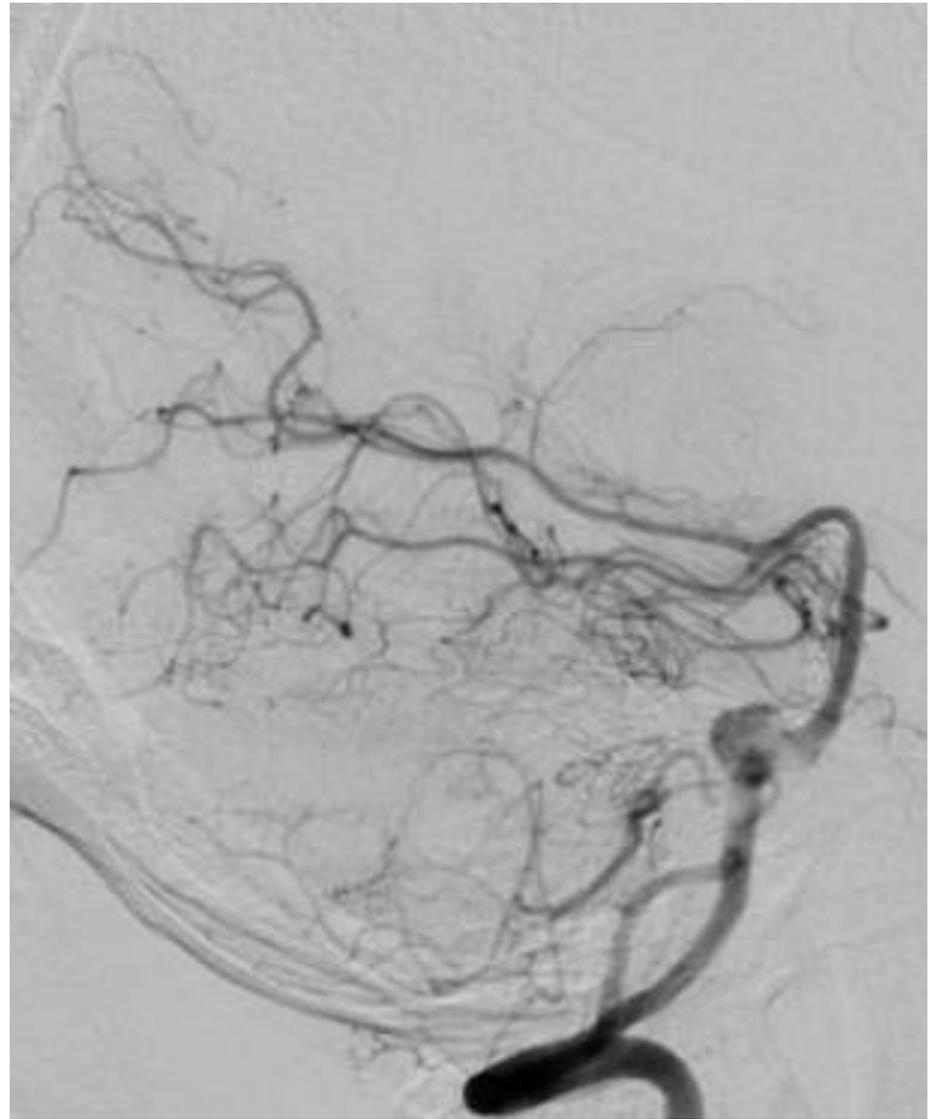


# Anterior and Posterior View



# Pipeline+Enterprise stent





**06/10/2014**

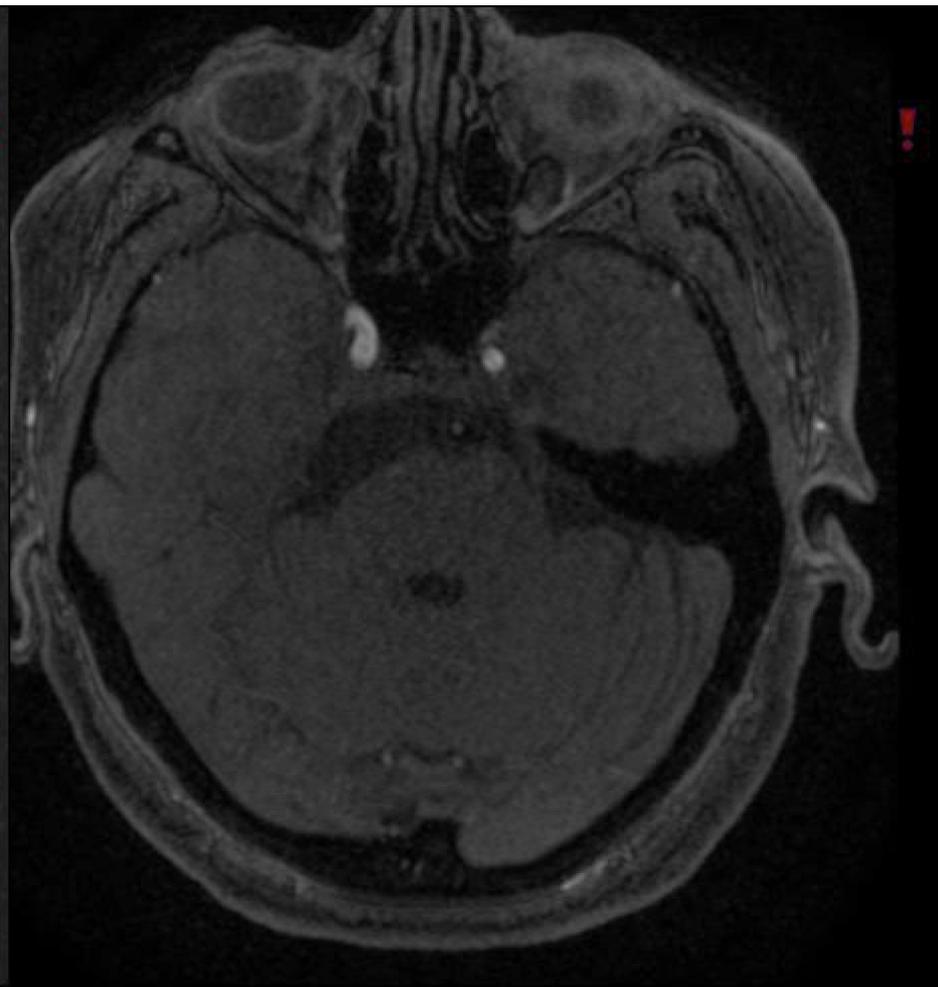
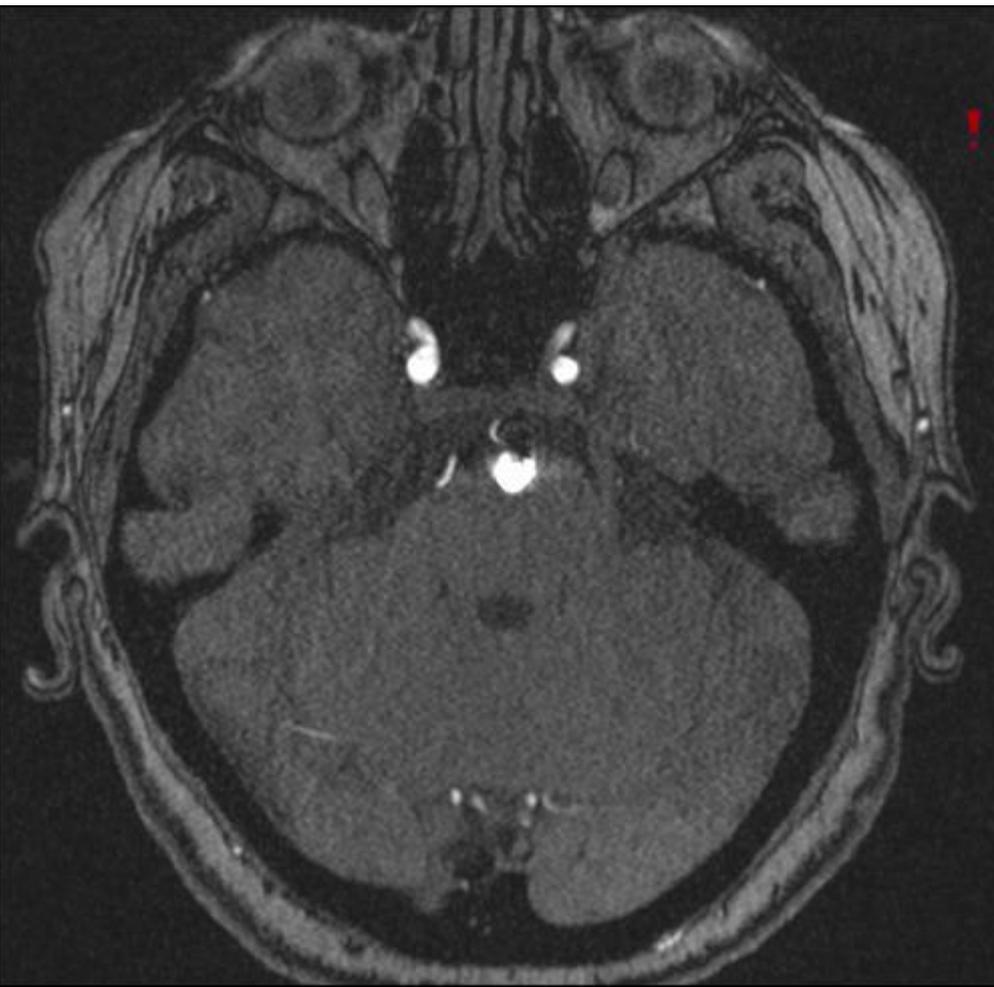


**02/17/2016**



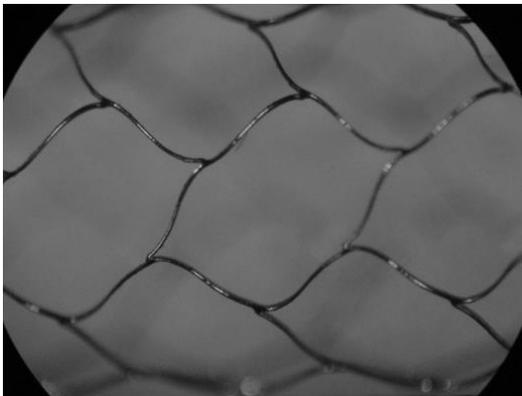
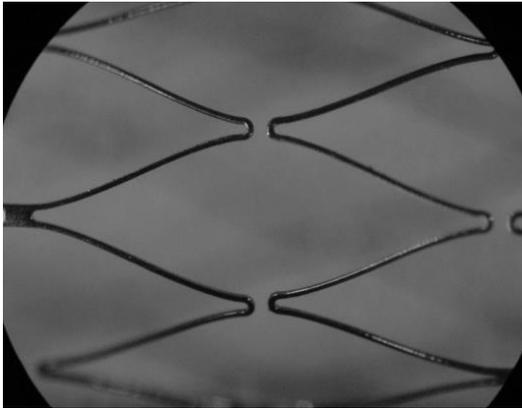
**06/10/2014**

**02/17/2016**



A few important points for the future...

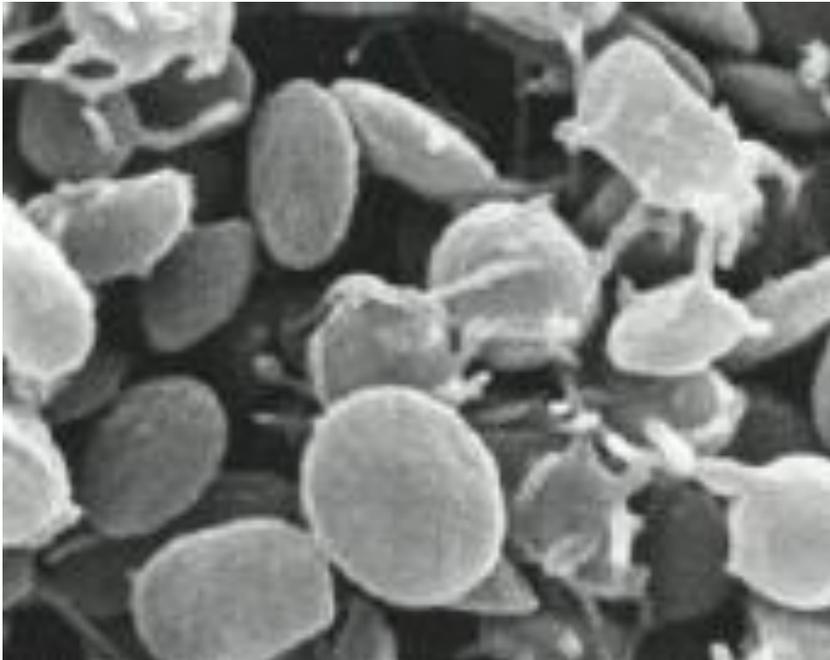
# Variable Arterial Coverage



Stent	Approximate Coverage
Neuroform, Enterprise	6%
Liberty, Lvis	15%
PED, Silk, Fred, Surpass, P64	30%

PRU range  $>50 < 210$

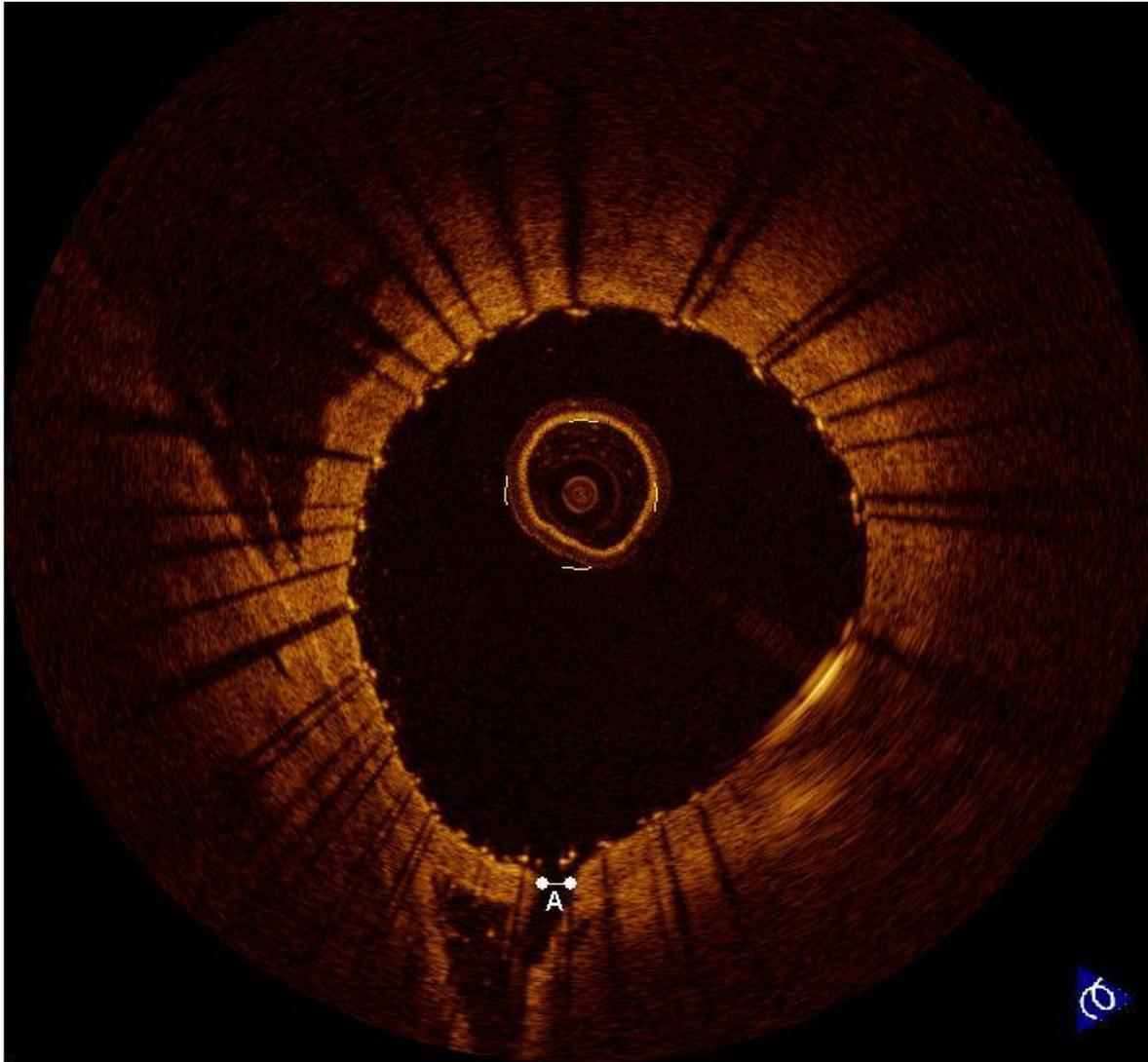
Dormant Platelets



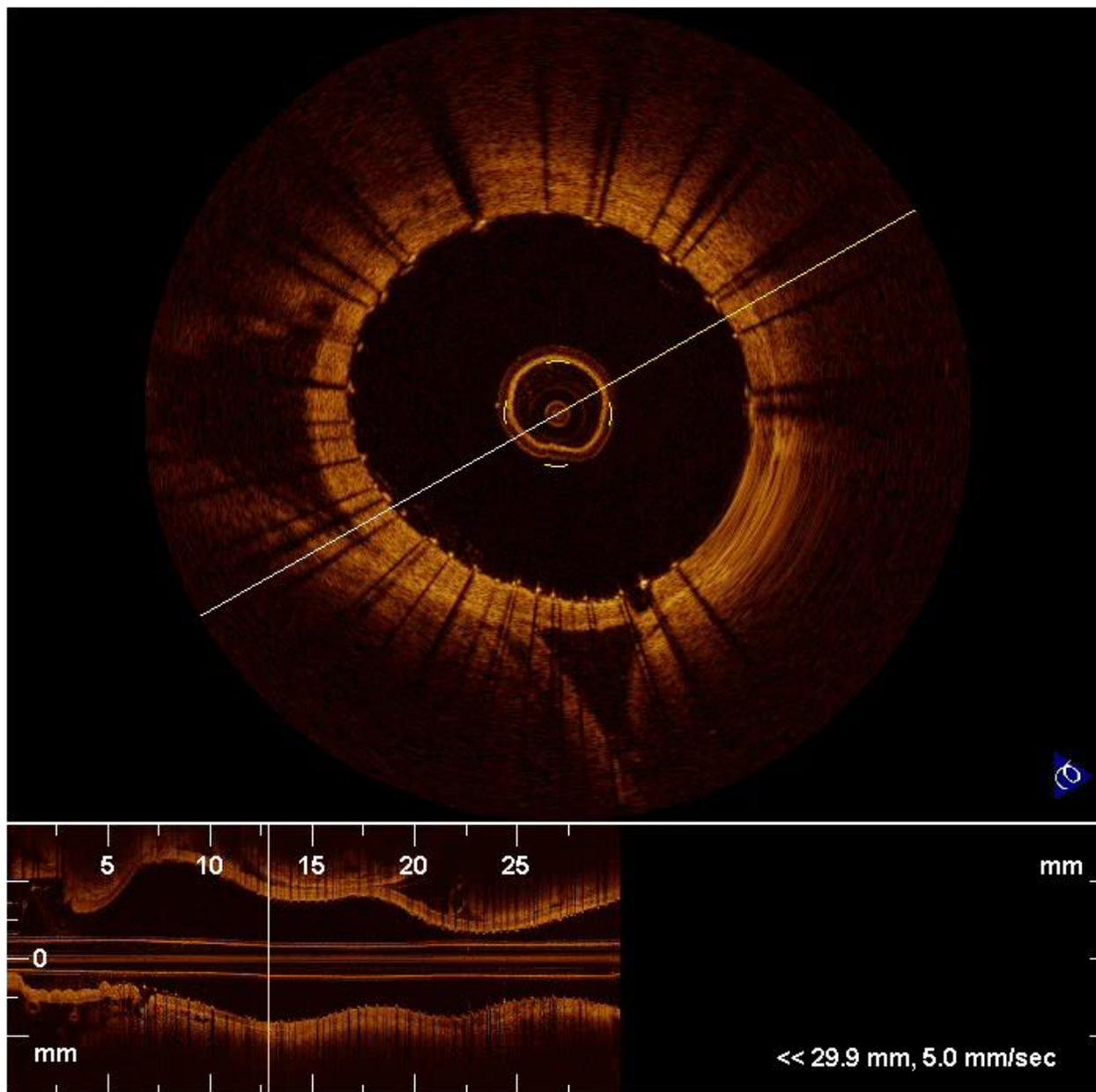
Activated Platelets



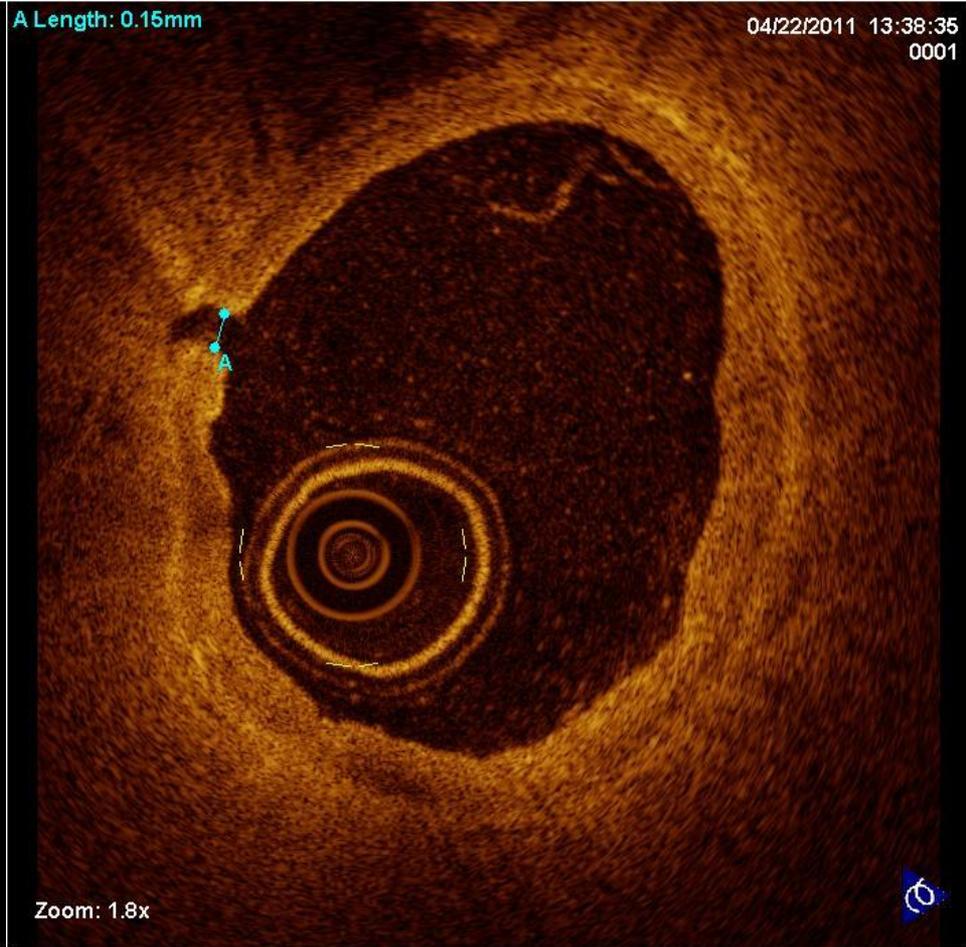
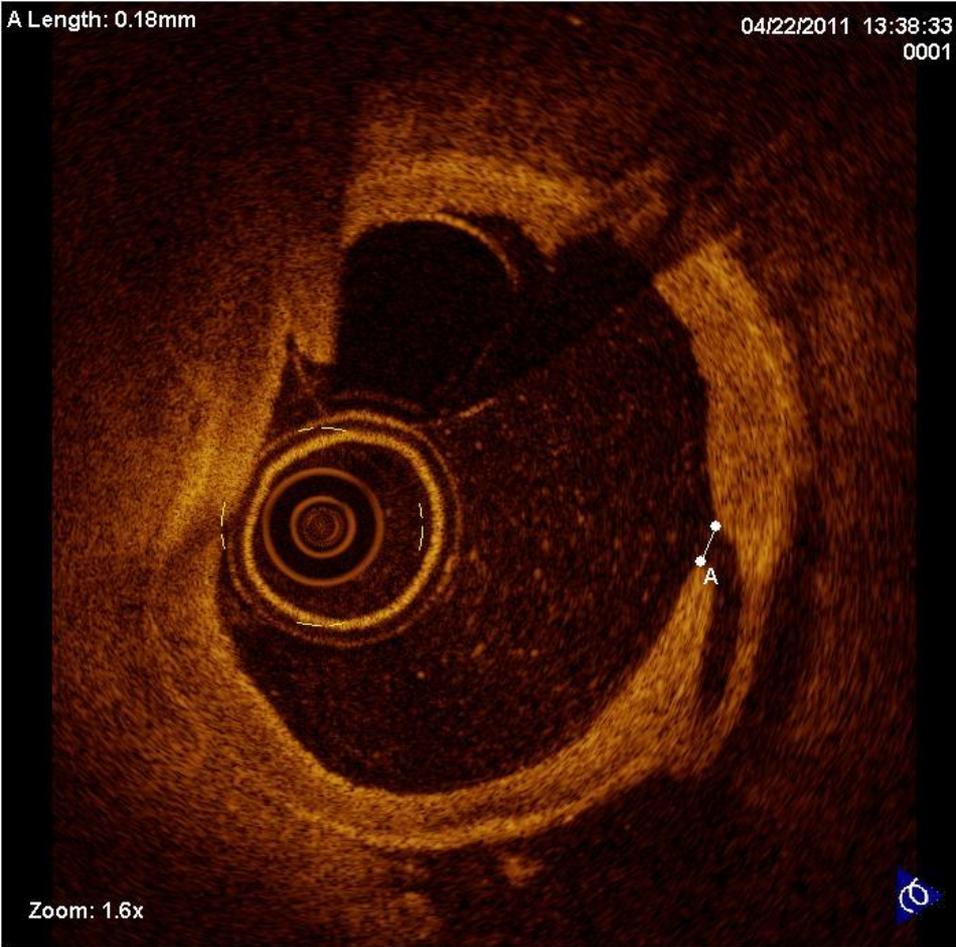
## Relationship pipeline - perforator



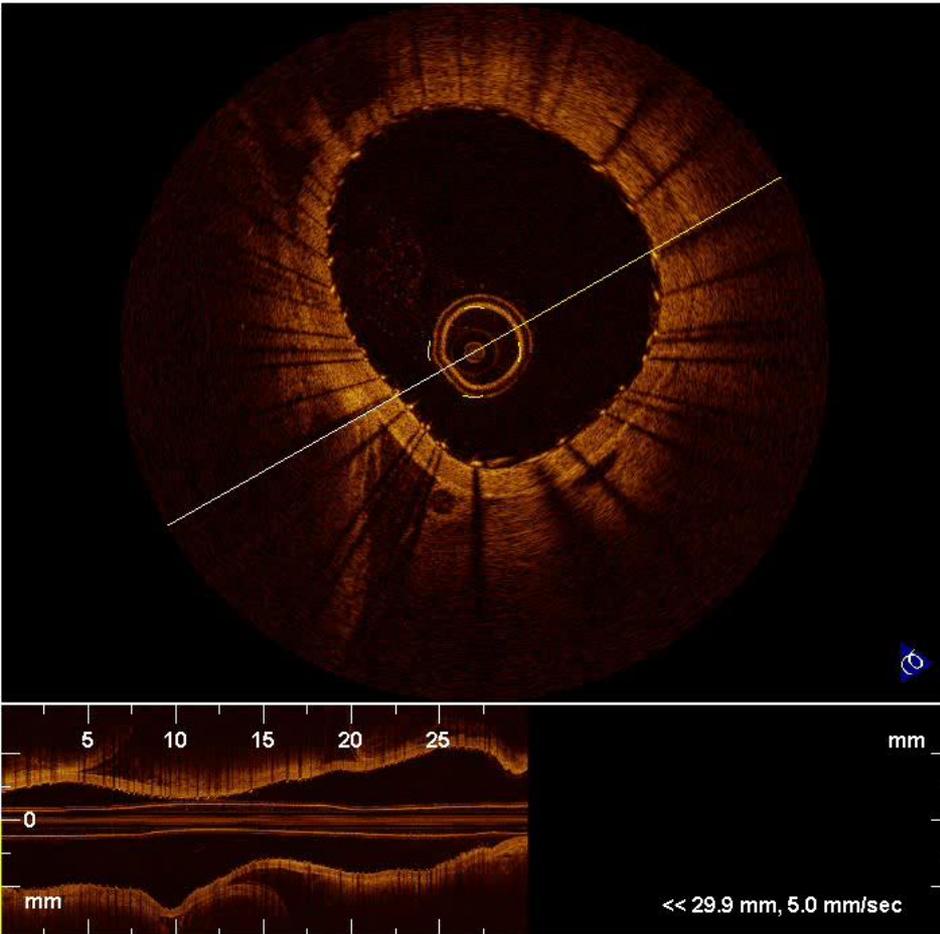
Developing  
intravascular  
imaging with  
OCT for brain  
vessels



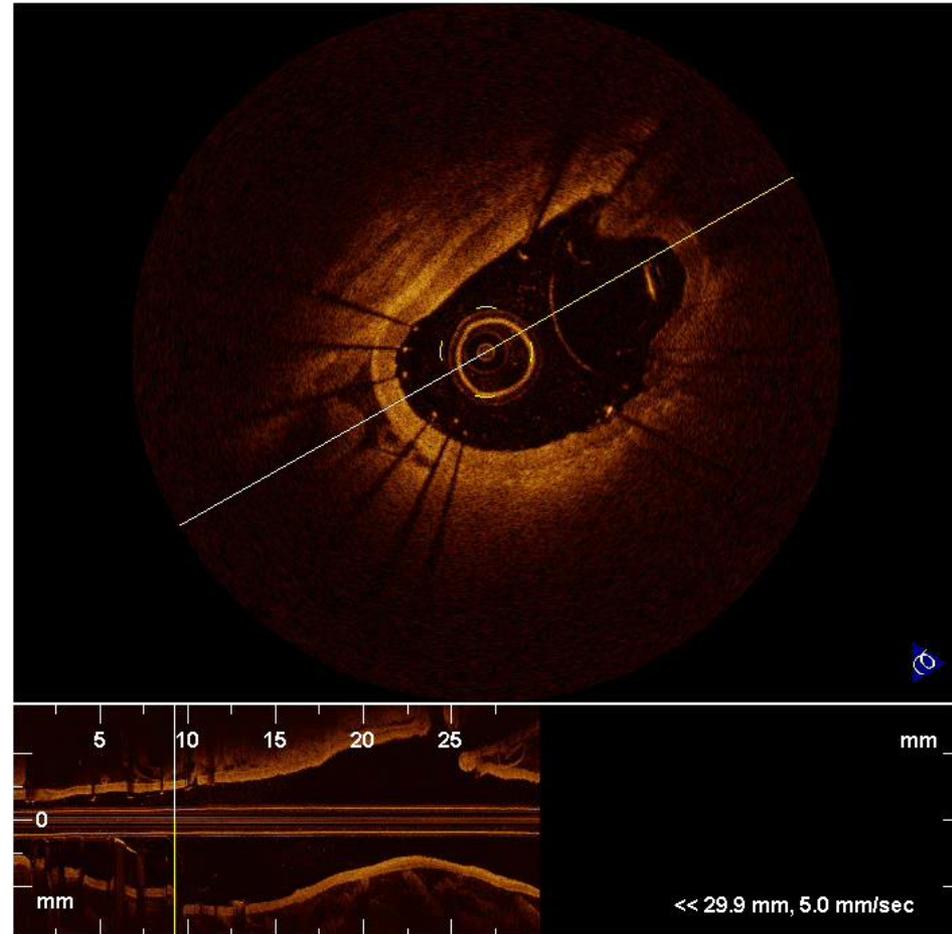
# MCA – Lenticulostriate perforators



## Flow - Diverter



## Self-expanding Stent

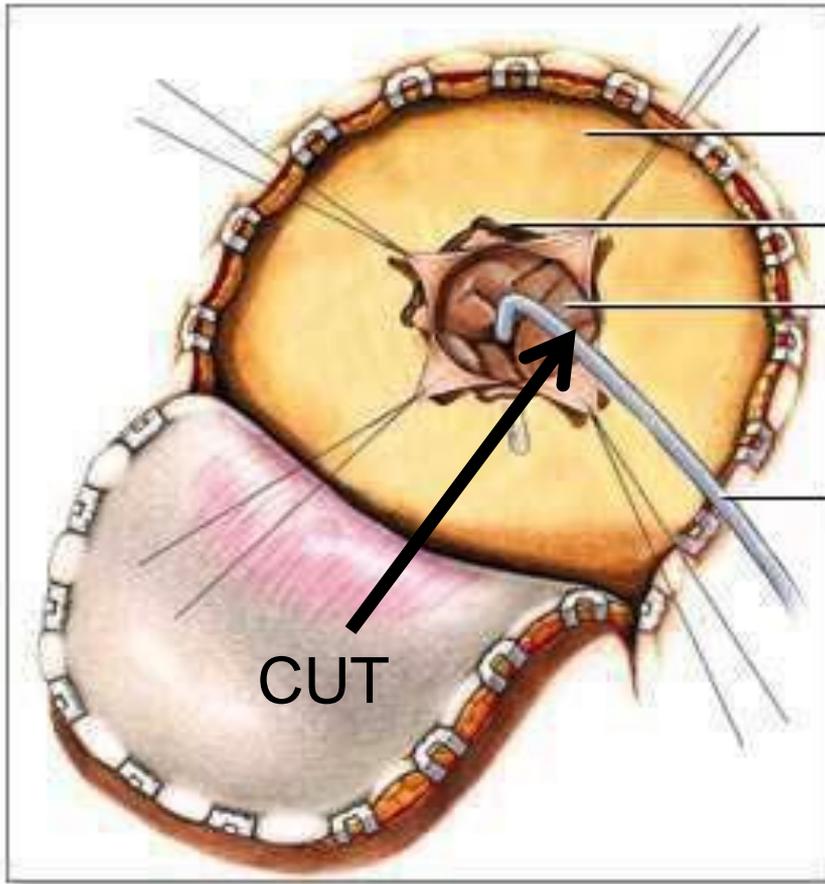


- PRU>208 + procedure >116 min – high risk
- PRU<208 + procedure > 116 min – moderate risk
- PRU>208 + procedure < 116 min – moderate risk
- PRU<208 + procedure < 116 min – low risk

[J Neurointerv Surg](#). 2015 Mar;7(3):217-21. doi: 10.1136/neurintsurg-2014-011111. Epub 2014 Feb 19.

**Thromboembolic complications with Pipeline Embolization Device placement: impact of procedure time, number of stents and pre-procedure P2Y12 reaction unit (PRU) value**

# What about patients with ventriculostomy?



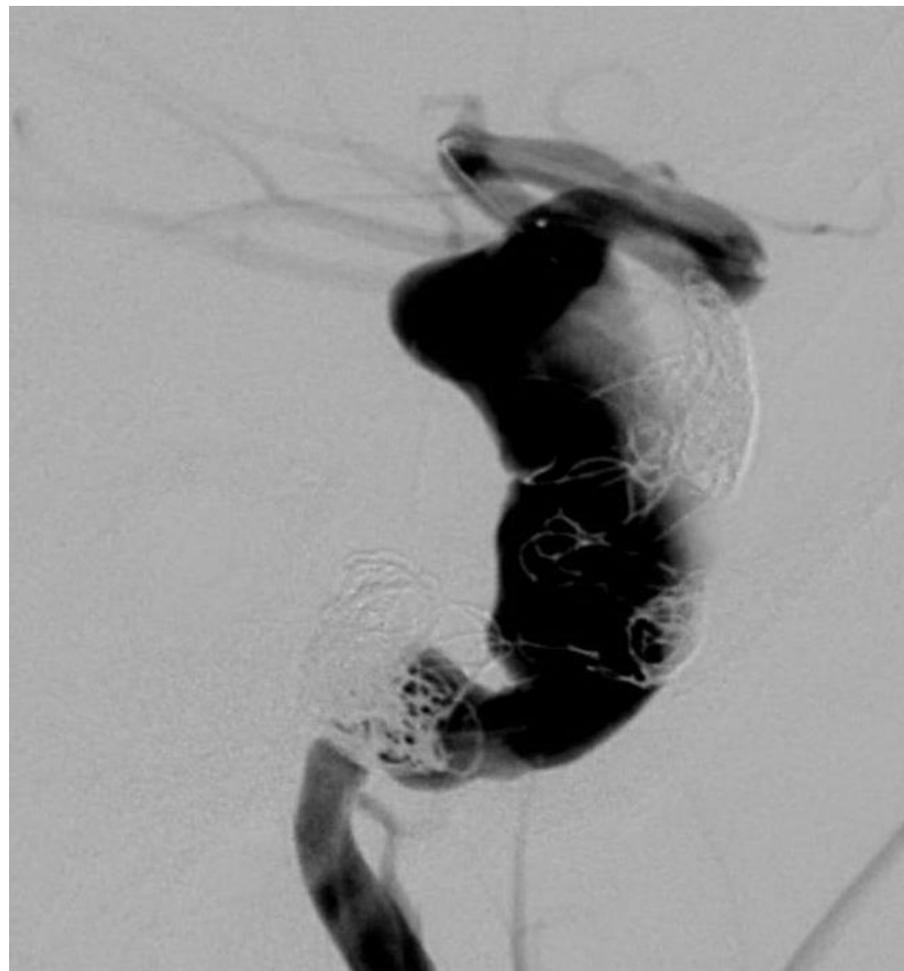
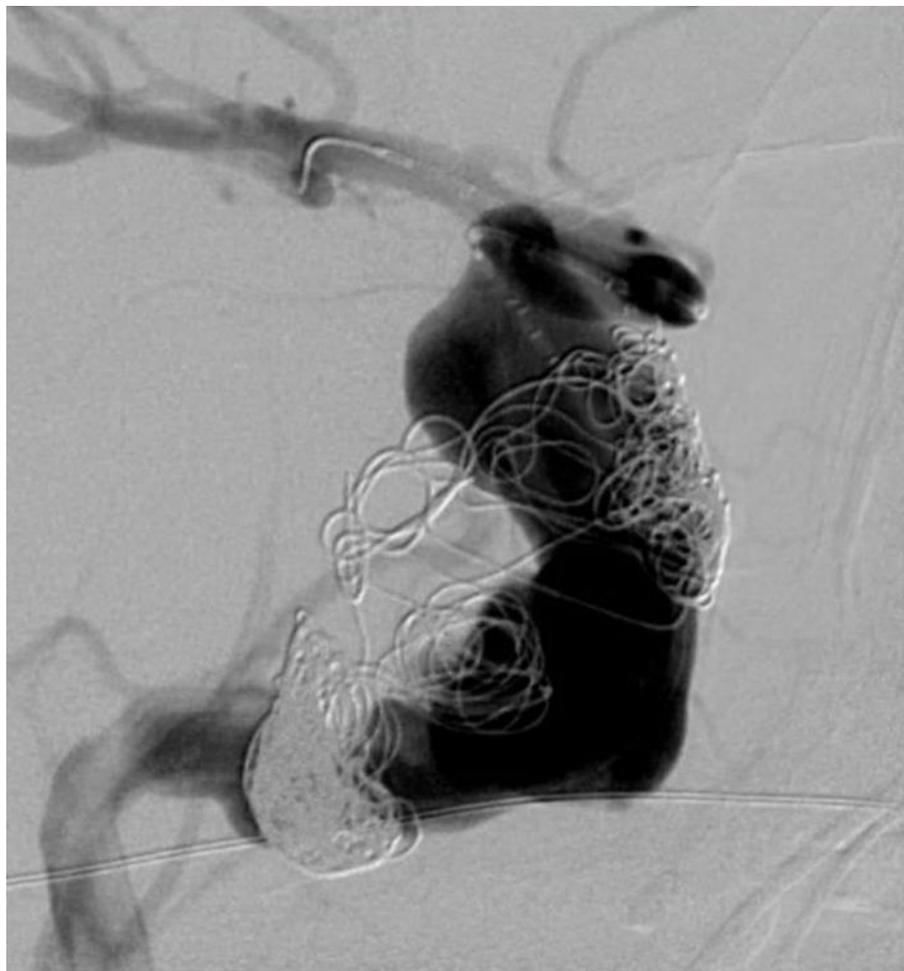
- Technique for shunt
  - Expose ventriculostomy burr hole
  - Cut ventriculostomy catheter and discard proximal section
  - Attach shunt valve directly to original ventriculostomy catheter
- No movement of ventriculostomy catheter

# Intraoperative Monitoring

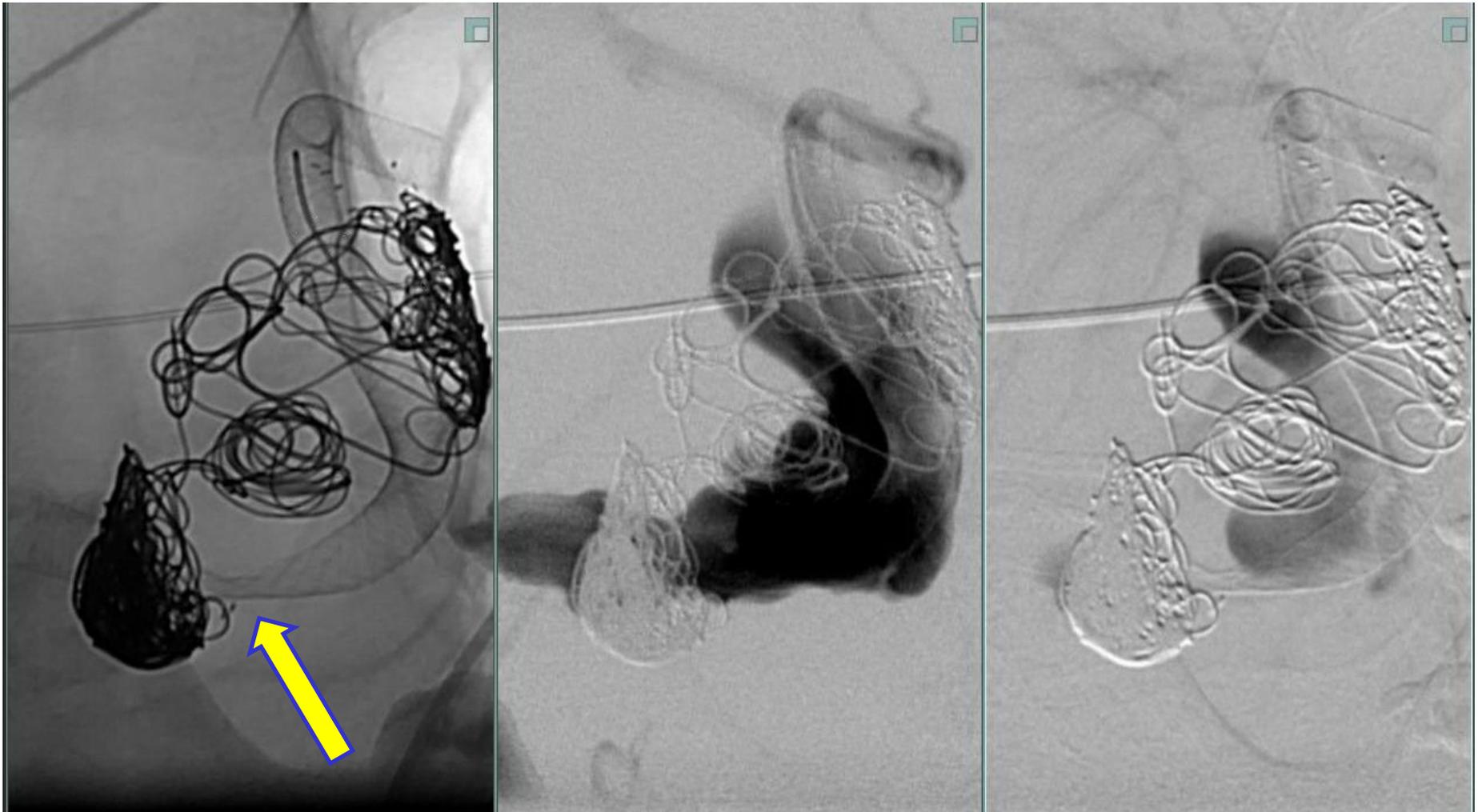
Have all the “amenities” that we have for clipping

**Motor**  
**VER**  
**SSEP**  
**EEG**

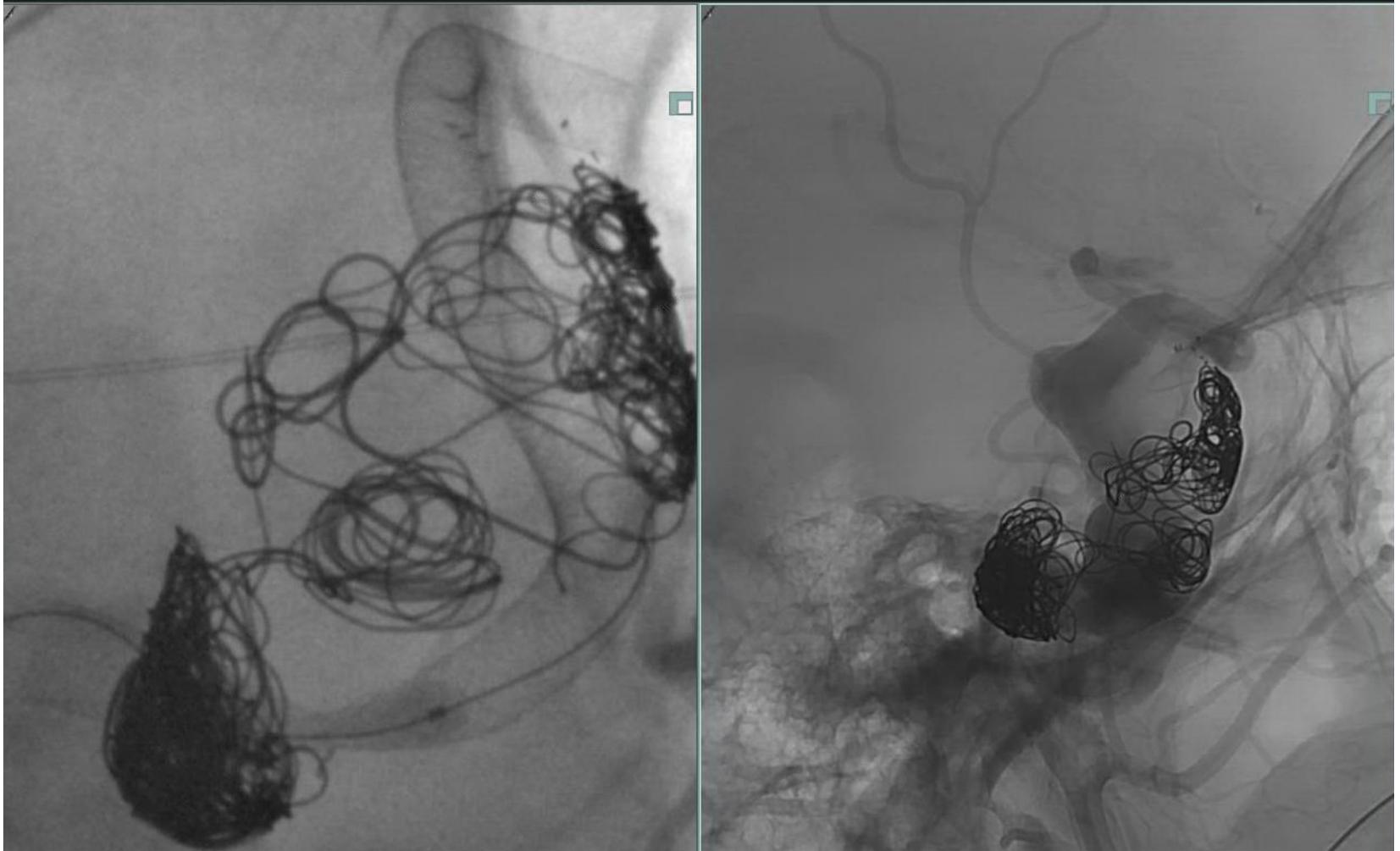


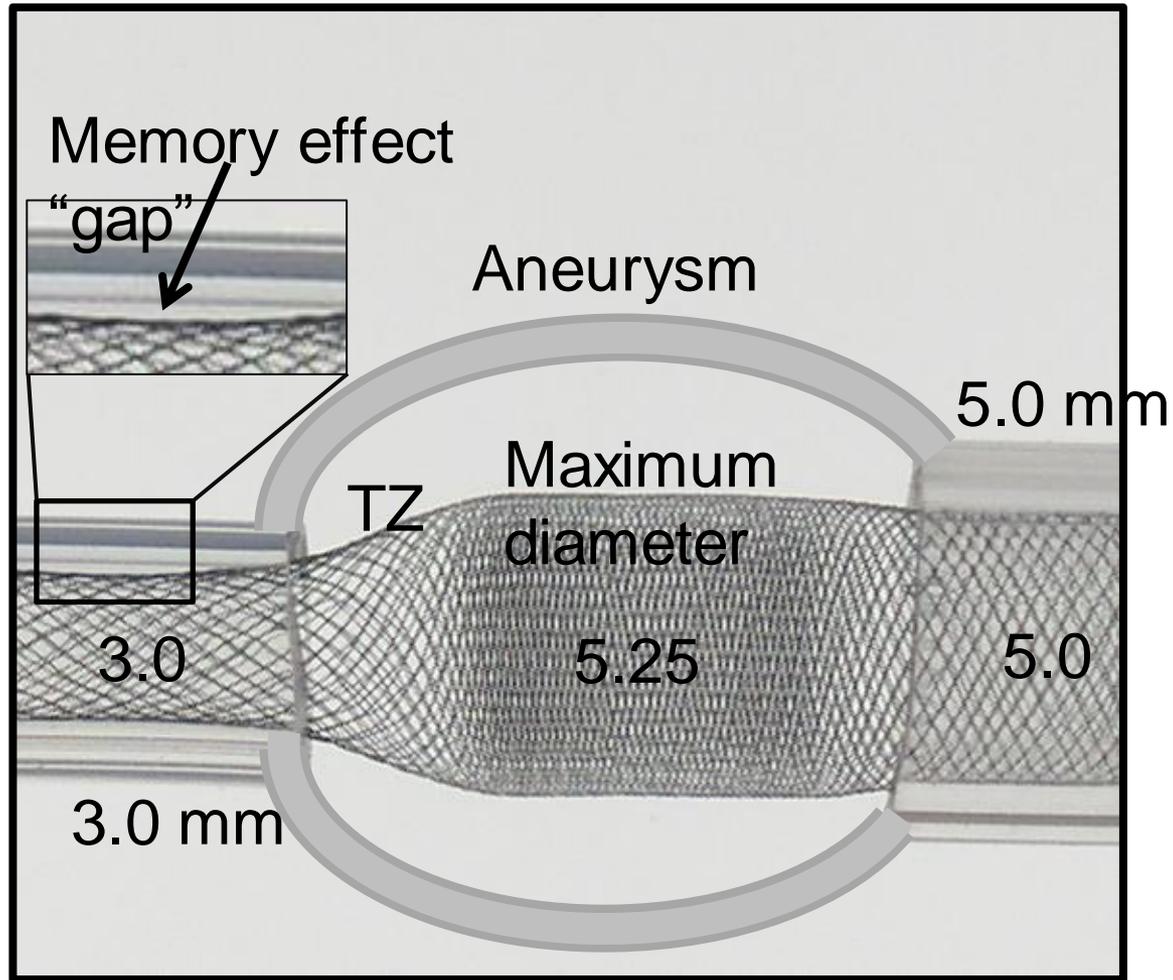


# 8 Overlapping Pipeline stents



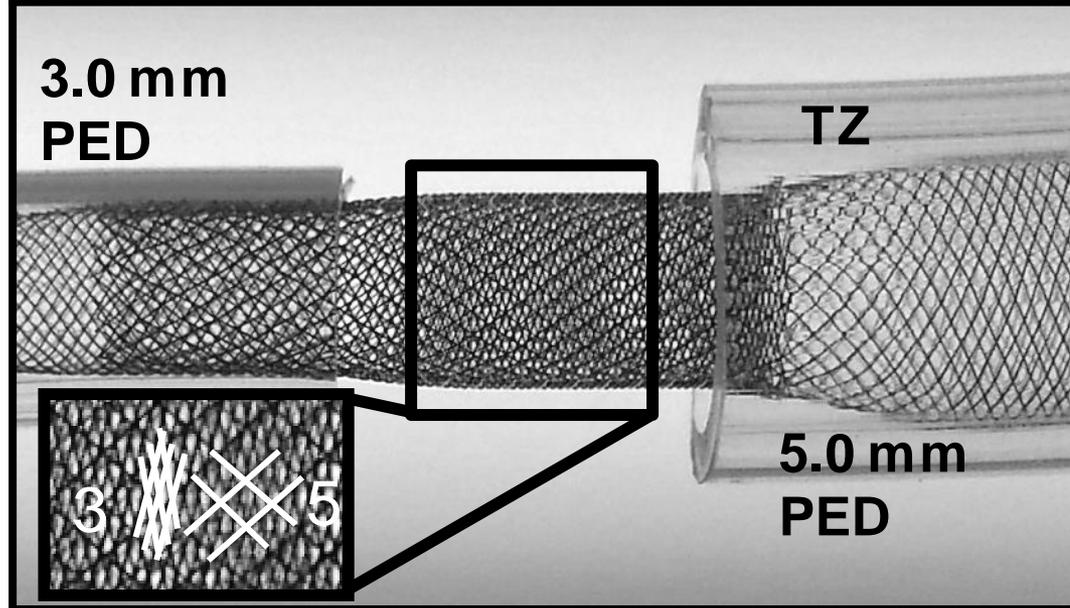
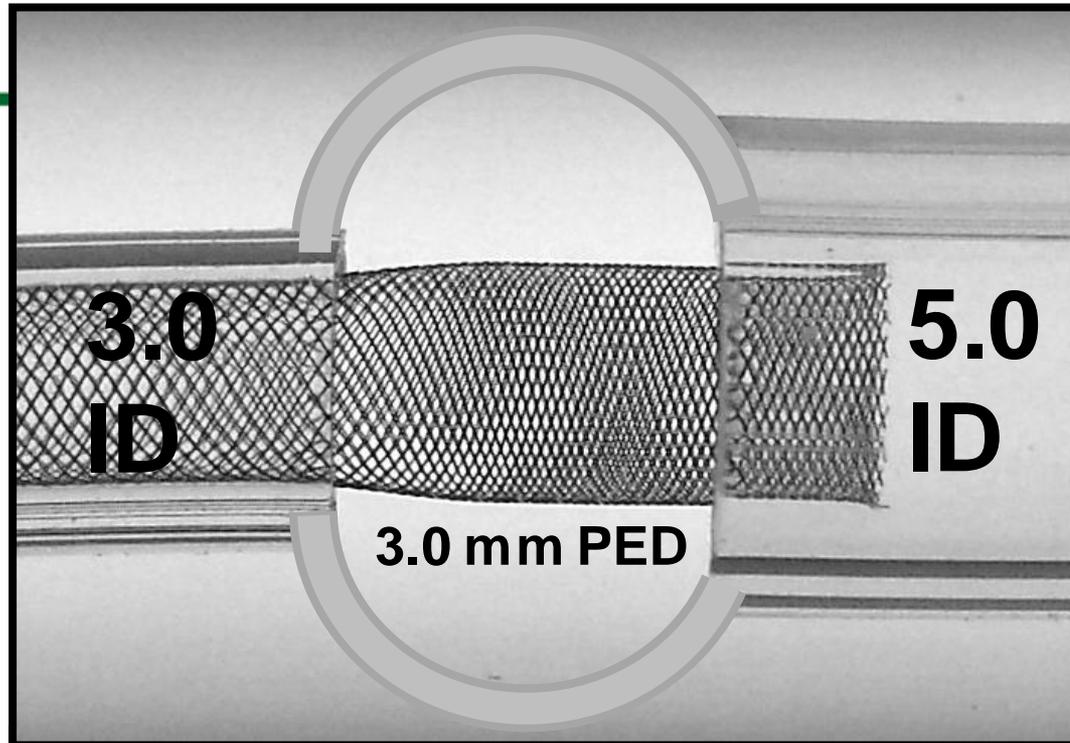
# Angioplasty within Pipeline



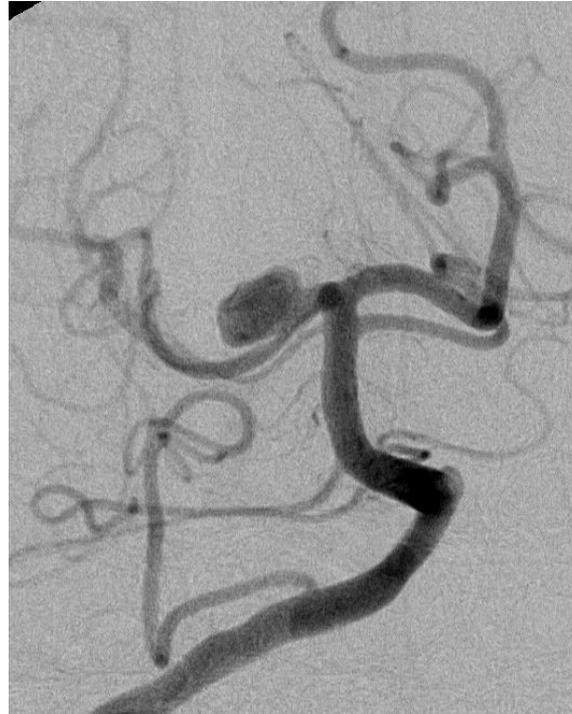


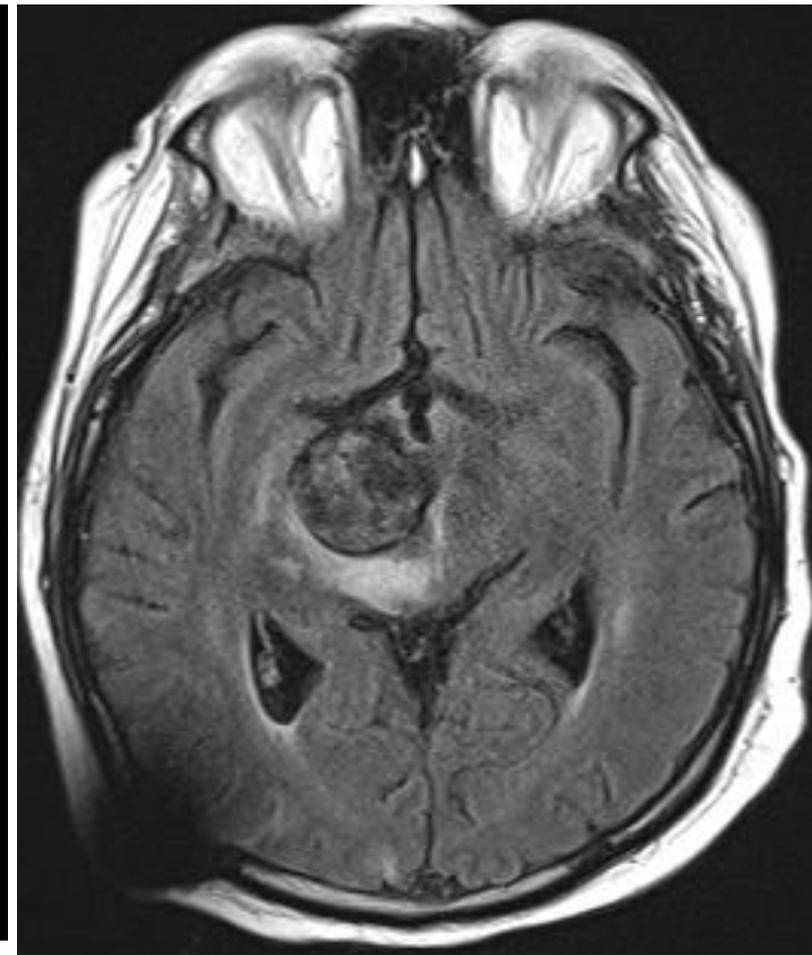
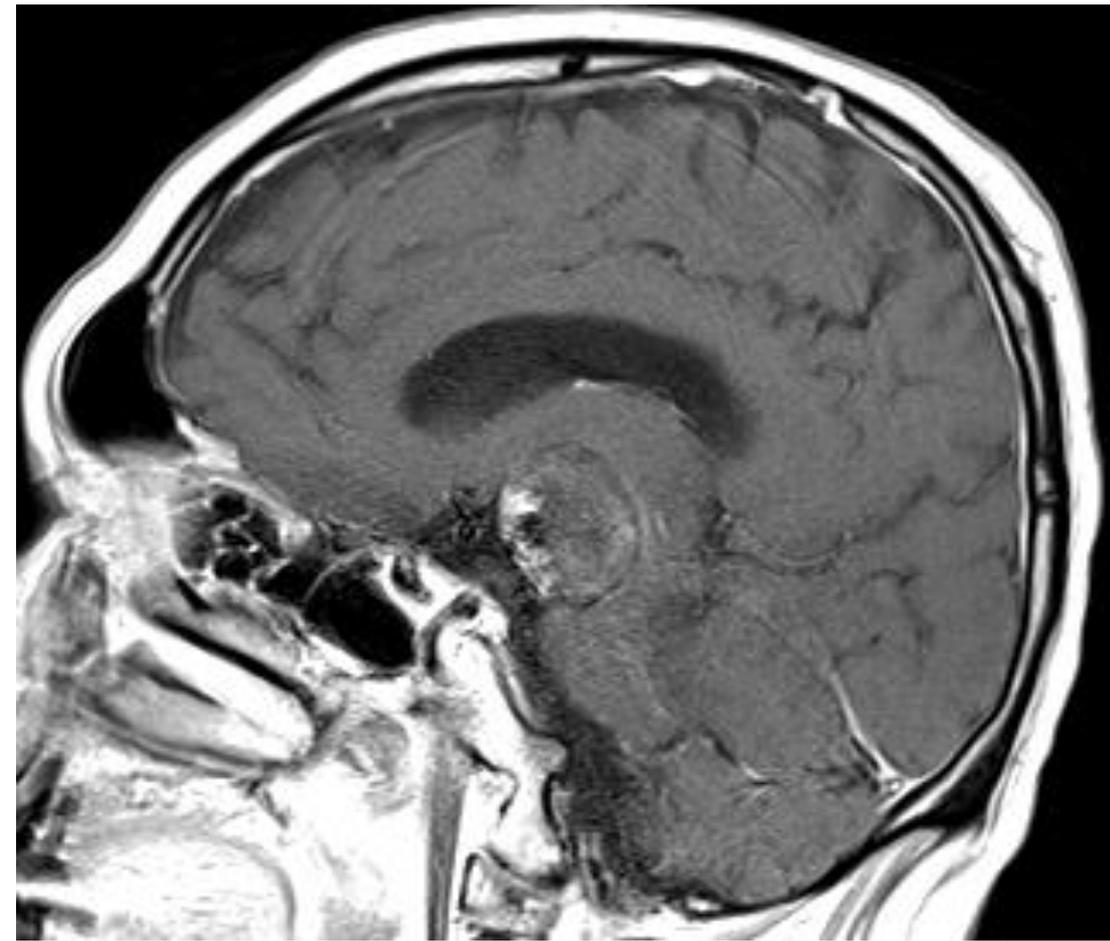
5 x 20 mm PED Nominal diameter

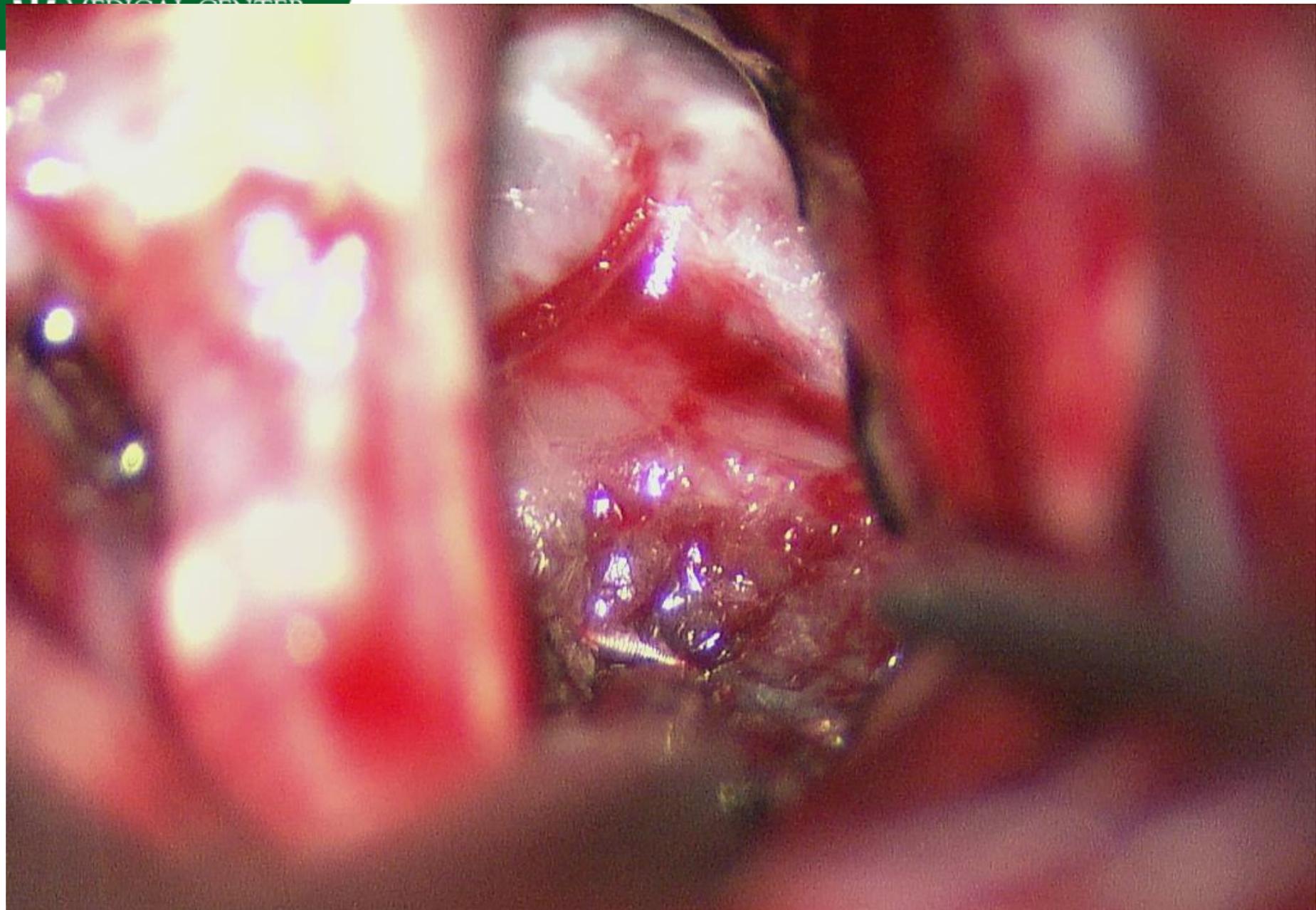
# Addressing mismatch



# Symptomatic occluded aneurysm







# Conclusions:

- Vertebrobasilar fusiform and recurrent large and giant aneurysms remain formidable lesions associated with high morbidity and mortality when left untreated
- Safer treatments may allow early intervention prior to quality of life permanently affected
- Treatment with a variable coverage may be an alternative to invasive and extensive open vascular reconstruction and unpredictable impact of FD coverage
- Progressive thrombosis of the aneurysm is a fine balance of controlling blood coagulation and flow remodeling
- OCT imaging could be helpful mapping perforators for tailored coverage



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