



## **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  
[http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/avms/detail\\_avms.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/avms/detail_avms.htm)

### **NINDS AVM Information Page**

[http://www.ninds.nih.gov/health\\_and\\_medical/disorders/avms\\_html.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/health_and_medical/disorders/avms_html.htm)

### **NINDS Arteriovenous Malformation Information and Other Vascular Lesions**

[http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/avms/detail\\_avms.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/avms/detail_avms.htm)

### **Central Nervous System Vascular Malformations**

<http://neurosurgery.mgh.harvard.edu/Neurovascular/avm.htm#AVMs>

Includes an introduction to vascular malformations of the brain and spine (AVMs, cavernous malformation or cavernous angioma, venous anomaly or venous malformation, and telangiectasia)

### **Columbia Presbyterian AVMs of the Brain and Spine**

<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/cerebro/AVM.html>

Information on AVMs: Symptoms, causes, risks, diagnosis, treatments, investigational studies.

### **Cincinnati Children's Hospital**

<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/health/info/vascular/diagnose/malformation.htm>

Hemangiomas and vascular malformations: conditions and diagnoses

### **Treatment of AVMs at Mayo Clinic-Rochester**

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/avm-rst/>

### **Wake Forest University Medical Center**

<http://www.wfubmc.edu/surg-sci/ns/aneurysm.htm>

Links to information on brain vascular malformations, such as arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and cavernous malformations (cavernous angioma).

### **Spinal AVM Information**

<http://spinalavminfo.com/>

### **AVM Survivors' Network**

<http://www.avmsurvivors.org/>

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see [www.paralysis.org](http://www.paralysis.org) and click *Borrow from Our Lending Library* under PRC Quick Links.

#### **Books**

- Finch, Christopher. **Chuck Close: Life**. New York: Prestel, 2010. Close, a prominent American painter, had a spinal stroke in 1988.
- Kryski, Jane. **Malchance: From Walking to a Wheelchair**. Alexandria, VA: Washington House, 2004.
- Timothy, Megan. **Let Me Die Laughing! Waking From the Nightmare of a Brain Explosion**. Idyllwild, Calif.: Crone House Publishing, 2006.

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