

# Arteriovenous Malformations (AVM)



**Boston Children's Hospital**  
Cerebrovascular Surgery &  
Interventions Center

[bostonchildrens.org/AVM](http://bostonchildrens.org/AVM) | 617-919-1379

## **AN ARTERIOVENOUS MALFORMATION (AVM) IS A CLUSTER OF ABNORMALLY CONNECTED ARTERIES AND VEINS IN THE BRAIN.**

Children with AVMs face a lifetime risk of life-threatening intracranial hemorrhage along with symptoms such as chronic headaches, seizures, and neurological deficits.

In most cases, the best treatment option for an AVM is surgical removal.

### **Leading the way in microsurgical intervention**

Surgeons at Boston Children's Hospital have shown that microsurgical resection of AVMs in children is associated with higher rates of successful in complete removal of the malformation, less blood loss, and lower rates of neurological complications.

### **Better outcomes, lower costs**

Our team has published some of the highest volume and best outcome data in the U.S. for both open and endovascular treatment of AVMs in children, demonstrating that centers such as Boston Children's produce safer treatments with better outcomes at lower costs.

## **About the Cerebrovascular Surgery & Interventions Center**

The Cerebrovascular Surgery & Interventions Center at Boston Children's Hospital is an international leader in the treatment of AVMs.

Led by Edward Smith, MD, and Darren Orbach, MD, PhD, our center has pioneered the practice of multidisciplinary care for complex cerebrovascular disease, treating patients with a coordinated team approach incorporating the best specialists in the world.

### **What sets us apart**

The Cerebrovascular Surgery & Interventions Center has founded new treatments, lab discoveries, and the use of 3-D simulation to increase the speed and safety of AVM management in children.

Center co-director Dr. Ed Smith is the only pediatric neurosurgeon to help establish and write the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's current guidelines on the management of stroke in infants and children.

