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Novel Models for Identification of the Ruptured Aneurysm in Patients with Subarachnoid Hemorrhage with Multiple Aneurysms

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: In patients with SAH with multiple intracranial aneurysms, often the hemorrhage pattern does not indicate the rupture source. Angiographic findings (intracranial aneurysm size and shape) could help but may not be reliable. Our purpose was to test whether existing parameters could identify the ruptured intracranial aneurysm in patients with multiple intracranial aneurysms and whether composite predictive models could improve the identification.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: We retrospectively collected angiographic and medical records of 93 patients with SAH with at least 2 intracranial aneurysms (total of 206 saccular intracranial aneurysms, 93 ruptured), in which the ruptured intracranial aneurysm was confirmed through surgery or definitive hemorrhage patterns. We calculated 13 morphologic and 10 hemodynamic parameters along with location and type (sidewall/bifurcation) and tested their ability to identify rupture in the 93 patients. To build predictive models, we randomly assigned 70 patients to training and 23 to holdout testing cohorts. Using a linear regression model with a customized cost function and 10-fold cross-validation, we trained 2 rupture identification models: RIM_C using all parameters and RIM_M excluding hemodynamics.

RESULTS: The 25 study parameters had vastly different positive predictive values (31%–87%) for identifying rupture, the highest being size ratio at 87%. RIM_C incorporated size ratio, undulation index, relative residence time, and type; RIM_M had only size ratio, undulation index, and type. During cross-validation, positive predictive values for size ratio, RIM_M, and RIM_C were 86% ± 4%, 90% ± 4%, and 93% ± 4%, respectively. In testing, size ratio and RIM_M had positive predictive values of 85%, while RIM_C had 92%.

CONCLUSIONS: Size ratio was the best individual factor for identifying the ruptured aneurysm; however, RIM_C, followed by RIM_M, outperformed existing parameters.

ABBREVIATIONS: AR = aspect ratio; CFD = computational fluid dynamics; D = maximum diameter; H = height (perpendicular); H_{max} = maximum height; IA = intracranial aneurysm; NWSS = normalized wall shear stress; OSI = oscillatory shear index; RIM = rupture identification model; RRS = rupture resemblance score; RRT = relative residence time; SR = size ratio; UI = undulation index; WSS = wall shear stress

Approximately 30% of patients with intracranial aneurysms (IAs) present with multiple aneurysms.¹ Correct identifica-

tion of the ruptured IA in a patient with SAH is critical for treatment planning.² Identifying the ruptured IA is increasingly important in an era of increased endovascular treatment because the source of hemorrhage cannot be confirmed visually and aneurysms are usually treated individually. Hemorrhage pattern on initial CT scans is the primary indicator of the bleeding source, as demonstrated by Orning et al,³ who reported that a definitive hemorrhage pattern (localized to 1 IA) could accurately delineate the ruptured IAs. However, in approximately half of patients with multiple aneurysms, the hemorrhage pattern cannot

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delineate the ruptured IA.³ In such cases, rupture identification relies on angiographic findings, such as IA size, shape, and location.^{2,3} Several studies have reported misidentification of the ruptured aneurysm, which has been attributed to the small size or benign shape of the ruptured IA.²⁻⁸ Therefore, developing more reliable means of identifying the ruptured IA has clinical value in patients with multiple IAs, especially when the hemorrhage pattern cannot delineate the ruptured IA.

Several morphologic and hemodynamic parameters have been found to differ significantly between ruptured and unruptured aneurysm cohorts in patients with multiple IAs, albeit with conflicting findings.⁹⁻¹⁵ These studies have generally relied on univariate and multivariate regression analyses of pooled data of ruptured and unruptured IAs. Although such methods model the general probability of aneurysm rupture, they are not tailored for identifying which aneurysm ruptured in patients with SAH with multiple aneurysms. To that end, the ability of aneurysmal metrics for identification of the ruptured aneurysm should be evaluated by comparing all IAs within each patient, and models trained by associating the coexisting IAs within each patient should be developed.

In this study, we retrospectively analyzed IAs in patients with SAH presenting with multiple aneurysms to test the performance of existing morphologic and hemodynamic parameters and to build new composite models for identifying the ruptured aneurysm in patients with multiple aneurysms. The performance of the new models was compared against existing morphologic and hemodynamic parameters along with aneurysm location and type (sidewall or bifurcation) and a previously developed rupture-classification model, the rupture resemblance score (RRS).¹⁶ Our findings may assist clinicians in better identifying the ruptured IA in patients with SAH presenting with multiple aneurysms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ethics Approval

This study was approved by the institutional review board of the University at Buffalo (IRB: 30-510704: Virtual Intervention of Intracranial Aneurysms).

Data Collection

We retrospectively collected cerebrovascular images and medical records from consecutive series of patients with aneurysmal SAH treated at 3 stroke centers located in China (Beijing Tiantan Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing, China), Japan (Kohnan Hospital, Sendai, Japan), and the United States (Gates Vascular Institute, Buffalo, NY). Inclusion criteria mandated that patients had a ruptured IA and at least 1 unruptured aneurysm and that all aneurysms were saccular. For the patients who underwent a craniotomy for aneurysm clipping, the ruptured aneurysm was confirmed through microscopic visual assessment. For patients who underwent endovascular or no treatment, we included only those with a definitive hemorrhage pattern on CT (localized to 1 IA). Examples of definitive and nondefinitive hemorrhage patterns are provided in Fig 1, respectively. All patients included in the current study underwent 3D rotational DSA preoperatively, which was used for

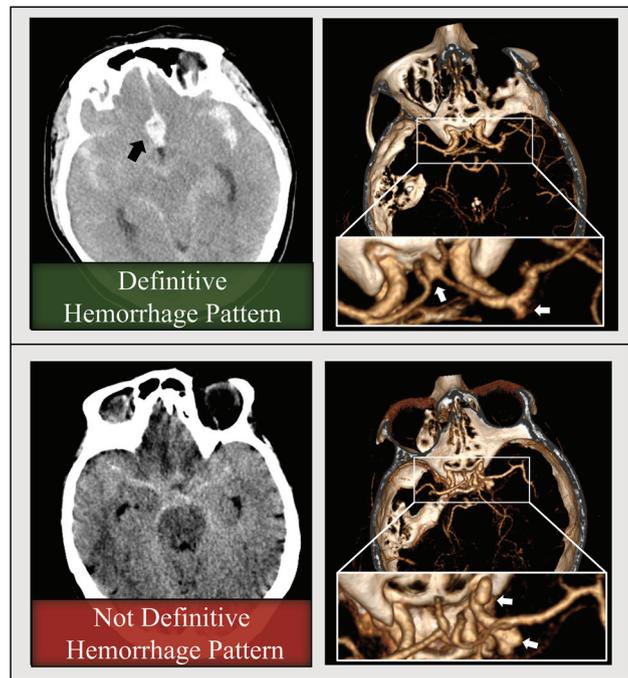


FIG 1. Top, A 62-year-old woman who presented with SAH (left image, noncontrast CT scan) was found to have anterior communicating artery and MCA aneurysms (white arrows, right image, CTA). A focal hematoma in the anterior circulation (black arrow, left image) delineated the anterior communicating artery aneurysm as the source of bleeding, which was confirmed at surgery. Bottom, A 59-year-old woman presented with SAH (left image, noncontrast CT scan). She was found to have 2 large lobulated right ICA aneurysms (white arrows, right image, CTA). The source of the rupture could not be identified from the hemorrhage pattern (this patient was excluded from our study). Both aneurysms were treated endovascularly.

aneurysm-geometry reconstruction. In general, the voxel sizes of images obtained at the 3 centers were similar, with little variation during the acquisition period: Chinese center, 0.280 mm; Japanese center, 0.227–0.226 mm; and US center, 0.256–0.223 mm. The images and data were anonymized, and the study received institutional review board approval. The operators who conducted image segmentation and morphologic and hemodynamic evaluations were blinded to aneurysm rupture status.

Image Segmentation and Computational Fluid Dynamics

The 3D-DSA images of all patients were segmented using an open-source Vascular Modeling Toolkit (VMTK; <http://www.vmtk.org>). VMTK is a semiautomated tool that uses a level-set method to place lumen contours at regions with maximum gradient intensity.¹⁷ After segmentation, a surface mesh for IAs with surrounding parent vessels was generated using the threshold-based marching cubes algorithm.¹⁷

Computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations were performed at 2 different centers (China: Beijing Tiantan Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing, China and Gates Vascular Institute, Buffalo, NY). For the Chinese data base, CFD was performed using ICEM-CFD software (ANSYS, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania) for mesh generation and CFX 14.0 software (ANSYS) for CFD simulation. For the US and Japanese

databases, CFD was performed using STAR-CCM+ (Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) for both mesh generation and CFD simulations. All geometries were converted to computational domains using the same meshing setup: tetrahedral volumetric mesh, minimum element size of 0.1 mm, and 3 refined prism layers. All CFD simulations were performed using the same numeric setup, assumptions, and boundary conditions, including rigid wall, Newtonian behavior of blood flow, location-based inflow rate,¹⁸ and distribution of outlet flow based on the Murray law.¹⁹ Complete details of CFD simulations, including the sensitivity of the hemodynamic results to the CFD solvers, are given in the On-line Appendix and On-line Figs 1 and 2.

Morphologic Parameters

Aneurysmal morphology was calculated using AView,²⁰⁻²² a computational workflow for morphologic and hemodynamic assessment of IAs. The definitions of the 13 morphologic indices are illustrated in On-line Fig 3. Maximum diameter (D) is the maximum distance between any 2 points on the aneurysm sac. Maximum height (H_{\max}) is the maximum distance between the sac and the center of the neck plane. Height (H) is the maximum perpendicular distance from the neck plane to the sac. Size ratio (SR) has 2 definitions in the literature,^{23,24} so does aspect ratio (AR),^{23,25} and we applied both. SR_D is the ratio of D to the average parent vessel diameter, and $SR_{H_{\max}}$ is the ratio of H_{\max} to the average parent vessel diameter. $AR_{H_{\max}}$ and AR_H are the ratios of H_{\max} and H to the average neck diameter, respectively. Aneurysm number²⁶ is the neck ratio (the ratio of neck diameter to the average parent vessel diameter) multiplied by the pulsatility index based on parent artery location obtained from the literature.^{27,28} Undulation index (UI) represents the degree of aneurysm surface irregularity. Ellipticity index represents deviation of the IA from a perfect hemisphere. Nonsphericity index represents deviation of the IA from a perfect hemisphere while also considering surface undulations.²³ Surface area and volume of the IAs were calculated as well. We also classified aneurysms as bifurcation or sidewall. Bifurcation IAs are those that arise at the apex of a split from a main (proximal) artery into ≥ 2 daughter (distal) arteries.

Hemodynamic Parameters

After obtaining the flow field in each IA, we calculated the aneurysm-averaged values for the following 10 hemodynamic parameters: time-averaged wall shear stress (WSS), which is the WSS magnitude averaged over the aneurysm sac; normalized WSS (NWSS), which is WSS further normalized by the spatiotemporal average wall shear stress of the parent vessel; maximum and minimum WSS and NWSS, which are the maximum or minimum value of WSS that occurred on the aneurysm sac; oscillatory shear index (OSI), which measures the directional change of the WSS through the cardiac cycle; relative residence time (RRT), which quantifies the stasis of blood near the aneurysm wall; low shear area, which is the percentage of the sac area exposed to low WSS (defined as $< 10\%$ of the averaged parent vessel WSS); and finally, complex flow, which is defined as an aneurysmal flow structure that contains > 1 separate vortex core line.^{18,29} This parameter is

binary: 1 for complex flow structure and 0 for simple flow structure. These parameters are defined in On-line Table 1 and illustrated in On-line Fig 4.

Because multiple operators performed numeric analyses, we conducted a post hoc study to quantify the intraclass correlation coefficient among operators using our protocol for calculating morphologic and hemodynamic parameters and found excellent agreement. Details are provided in the On-line Appendix, On-line Table 2, and On-line Fig 5.

Rupture Resemblance Score

We also calculated the RRS, a rupture classification model that was trained based on a database of 204 ruptured and unruptured IAs.³⁰ RRS can provide a rupture probability for an IA based on IA morphology and hemodynamics, which can be used to gauge the similarity of an IA to a cohort of ruptured IAs. The equation for the calculation of RRS is provided in the On-line Appendix.

Description of Ruptured and Unruptured Aneurysms

For all IAs, we described location, type (bifurcation versus sidewall), morphology, hemodynamics, and RRS. Continuous variables were presented as means with SDs. Conditional logistic regression³¹ was used to assess differences between ruptured and unruptured cohorts. Discrete variables were presented as numbers, and a χ^2 test was used to determine significant differences between ruptured and unruptured cohorts. A *P* value of $< .01$ was considered significant.

Testing the Performance of Existing Rupture Predictive Parameters in Identifying the Ruptured IA

We further investigated the performance of each parameter for identifying each patient's ruptured IA. For aneurysm location, rupture prediction was based on rupture site frequencies as reported by Nehls et al² (anterior communicating artery, 62% of IAs identified at this location were ruptured; basilar artery, 50%; PICA, 50%; posterior communicating artery, 38%; posterior cerebral artery, 33%; anterior cerebral artery, 33%; ICA, 32%; and MCA, 27%), and the aneurysm with the highest rupture frequency was assumed to be ruptured. If the ruptured IA and a coexisting unruptured IA were located on the same artery or arteries with the same rupture frequency, we assumed that identifying the ruptured aneurysm was not possible, and this was considered a false prediction.

Aneurysm type was used as a predictor of a ruptured aneurysm based on the assumption that bifurcation aneurysms rupture more frequently than sidewall aneurysms, especially small bifurcation aneurysms.³² Aneurysmal flow pattern was used as a predictor of a ruptured aneurysm based on the assumption that ruptured IAs more frequently contain a complex flow structure.²⁹ If the ruptured IA and a coexisting unruptured IA were of the same type or had the same flow pattern, we assumed that the rupture site was unidentifiable, and this was considered a false prediction.

For quantitative predictive parameters, the patient's IAs were compared and the IA with the highest value was assumed to be the ruptured IA. For parameters that are generally lower in ruptured aneurysms (eg, NWSS), the aneurysm with the lowest value was assumed to be the ruptured one.

We compared rupture prediction results with actual (confirmed through an operation or definitive hemorrhage pattern) aneurysm rupture status. The performance of each metric was quantified as a positive predictive value, which is the number of patients with correct identification of ruptured IAs divided by the total number of patients.

Generating Rupture Identification Models

After testing the performance of individual rupture predictors, we generated composite models that were trained to provide a higher score for the ruptured IA in patients with SAH with multiple IAs, which we called the rupture identification model (RIM). First, we randomly assigned 70 patients to a training cohort and 23 patients to a holdout testing cohort. To distribute equal weight, we centered all variables to 0 (subtraction of the mean) and scaled them (division by the SD). All variables were then used to generate all possible linear combinations, and we removed those with collinear variables (Pearson correlation >0.5, moderate correlation; On-line Table 3). We used a linear regression model with a customized cost function, which maximizes the positive predictive value and the differences between ruptured and coexistent unruptured IAs within each patient, to fit the remaining models. The best performing model during 10-fold cross-validation was identified. The resulting model, which was trained by all variables, was termed RIM_C, with the subscript C indicating the need for CFD to obtain hemodynamic parameters. We also trained a second model by excluding hemodynamic variables, termed RIM_M, with the subscript M indicating that it is a morphologic parameter and does not require CFD analysis. In the end, we evaluated the final models on the holdout testing cohort as well.

The workflow, access link to the model training code, and additional details of model generation are provided in the On-line Appendix and On-line Fig 6. Statistical analysis and model fitting were performed using an in-house code developed in R statistical and computing software (Version 1.0.44; <https://www.r-project.org/>).

RESULTS

Clinical Information

Table 1 summarizes the clinical information of the 93 patients with 206 IAs included in this study: Chinese center (59 patients, 130 IAs), Japanese center (17 patients, 38 IAs), and US center (17 patients, 38 IAs). The average patient age was 60 ± 13 years; 74% of all patients were women. The ruptured aneurysm was identified through craniotomy in 35 patients (38%) and a definitive hemorrhage pattern in 58 patients (62%). Seventy-six patients (82%) had 2 IAs, 15 (16%) had 3 IAs, 1 (1%) had 4 IAs, and 1 (1%) had 5 IAs.

Description of Ruptured and Unruptured Aneurysms

On-line Table 4 shows the number of IAs at each location, IA type (bifurcation or sidewall), morphology, hemodynamics, and RRS for all IAs in the ruptured and unruptured cohorts. Eighty-two (40%) of all IAs were located along the ICA, 57 (70%) of which were unruptured. The anterior circulation was associated with the highest rupture frequency: Seven of 10 (70%) IAs

Table 1: Clinical information for patients with SAH with multiple IAs

Clinical Information	
Demographics and comorbidities (n = 93)	
Age (mean) (yr)	60 ± 13
Female sex	69 (74%)
Hypertension	59 (63%)
Smoking history	35 (38%)
Coronary artery disease	7 (8%)
Hyperlipidemia	28 (30%)
Diabetes mellitus	13 (14%)
Polycystic kidney disease	1 (1%)
Received treatment	
Clipping	35 (38%)
Endovascular	53 (57%)
No treatment	5 (5%)
Aneurysm multiplicity	
2 Aneurysms	76 (82%)
3 Aneurysms	15 (16%)
4 Aneurysms	1 (1%)
5 Aneurysms	1 (1%)

located on the anterior cerebral artery and 16 of 22 (73%) IAs located at the anterior communicating artery were ruptured. Only 6 IAs were located in the posterior circulation. Most ruptured IAs were bifurcation aneurysms (71%).

Except for the nonsphericity index and ellipticity index, the morphologic indices of the ruptured and unruptured cohorts were significantly different. Aneurysmal hemodynamics also differed, with ruptured IAs being exposed to lower WSS, higher RRT, and larger low shear area than the unruptured IAs. Complex flow patterns were present in 62% of ruptured IAs and 20% of unruptured IAs. The RRS was significantly higher in the ruptured cohort ($P < .001$).

Performance of Existing Parameters in Identifying the Ruptured Aneurysm

All parameters were further analyzed to test their ability in identifying the ruptured aneurysm by calculating the percentage of correctly identified ruptured IAs. We found that the positive predictive value considerably varied by individual parameters from 31% to 87%. SR_{Hmax} and H_{max} had the highest performance, identifying the ruptured IA in 87% and 85% of patients, respectively (Table 2). RRT identified the ruptured IA in 76% of patients and exhibited the best hemodynamic parameter performance. Figure 2 shows SR_{Hmax} and time-averaged RRT distributions on the aneurysm sac for ruptured and unruptured IAs in 3 representative patients. RRS identified the ruptured IA in 80% of the patients.

Rupture Identification Models

The 2 models, RIM_C and RIM_M, tailored to identify the ruptured aneurysm in patients with SAH with multiple IAs, achieved positive predictive values of 93% ± 4% and 90% ± 4%, respectively, during 10-fold cross-validation.

$$1) \quad RIM_C = 0.45 SR_{Hmax} + 0.17 UI + 0.21 RRT + 0.17 (Bifurcation)$$

Table 2: Performance of existing aneurysmal parameters in the prediction of ruptured aneurysm in patients with SAH with multiple IAs^a

Parameter	Positive Predictive Value
Location	52%
Type	31%
Morphology	
D	82%
H _{max}	85%
H	81%
SR _D	83%
SR _{Hmax}	87%
AR _{Hmax}	80%
AR _H	74%
Aneurysm No.	63%
Undulation index	80%
Nonsphericity index	49%
Ellipticity index	40%
Surface area	80%
Volume	80%
Hemodynamics	
WSS	67%
Maximum WSS	55%
Minimum WSS	75%
NWSS	71%
Maximum NWSS	51%
Minimum NWSS	74%
OSI	68%
RRT	76%
LSA	75%
Complex flow	50%
RRS	80%

^aFor WSS, Minimum WSS, NWSS, Maximum NWSS, and Minimum NWSS, we hypothesized that among IAs belonging to each patient, the IA with the lowest value is the ruptured IA. For the rest of the variables, we hypothesized that the IA with the highest value is the ruptured IA.

2)

$$RIM_M = 0.65 SR_{Hmax} + 0.16 UI + 0.19 (Bifurcation),$$

where *Bifurcation* equals 1 if an aneurysm is a bifurcation type and 0 if it is a sidewall type.

In the hold-out testing cohort, RIM_C and RIM_M could identify the ruptured IA in 92% and 85% of the 23 patients, respectively. Figure 3 shows the performance of RIM_C and RIM_M in the 10-fold cross-validation and hold-out testing cohorts.

DISCUSSION

Identification of the bleeding site is essential to management of aneurysmal SAH because one of the early steps in clinical care is to secure the rupture site to prevent rebleeding. It is often unfeasible to secure all aneurysms discovered in the same setting, so clinicians prioritize treating the highest risk aneurysm first. Misidentification of the ruptured IA may result in disastrous rebleeding of the ruptured lesion and mortality.²⁻⁸ In approximately 50% of patients, the hemorrhage pattern on CT images makes positive identification of the source of bleeding questionable, in which case clinicians often rely on angiographic findings.^{2,3} In a study by Orning et al,³ the ruptured aneurysm was misidentified in 16.2% of patients who had nondefinitive hemorrhage patterns. To create a more reliable aneurysmal metric for identifying the causative lesion, we generated 2 models

(RIM_C and RIM_M) that identify the ruptured site in patients with multiple IAs better than existing aneurysmal parameters.

Recent studies have reported using high-resolution MR imaging of the vessel wall for identifying the ruptured aneurysm among multiples.^{33,34} However, the reliability of such an approach is not yet established because 28.5% of stable unruptured IAs also demonstrated wall-enhancement features.³⁵ Moreover, such imaging requires a long acquisition time, which limits its clinical application and requires cooperative or intubated patients.³⁶ Consequently, the standard of care for identification of ruptured IAs in patients with multiple aneurysms still relies on CT and angiographic findings.

Controversy exists in the literature regarding whether aneurysm size or shape is more reliable for identifying the ruptured IA in patients with multiple IAs. Nehls et al² noted that irregular shape, defined as “multilobulated, contained a nipple, or were markedly elongated,” is a better predictor of the ruptured aneurysm than aneurysm size, “greatest dimension.” Conversely, Shojima et al³⁷ reported that aneurysm size, “largest diameter,” predicts ruptured aneurysms better than irregular shape, which was defined as an aneurysm with a daughter sac or “an irregular protrusion of the aneurysm wall.” We believe such opposing opinions exist because “irregular shape” was not clearly defined and is subject to interrater variations.²² To avoid such a problem, we quantified aneurysm shape by calculating 3 shape indices, UI, nonsphericity index, and ellipticity index.²³ Among them, UI was the only parameter that was different between ruptured and unruptured IAs, and identified the ruptured IAs in 80% of patients. However, all definitions of aneurysm size, including H_{max} and D, outperformed UI in identifying the ruptured IA, indicating that aneurysm size is more reliable than aneurysm shape for ruptured IA identification.

Previous studies have investigated the morphologic and hemodynamic differences between ruptured and unruptured aneurysms in patients with multiple IAs, mainly through regression analysis, which is more suitable for modeling event probabilities.^{9,10,12-14,37} In the current study, the ruptured aneurysm was identified by directly comparing the IAs within each patient. We noted that morphology outperformed hemodynamics in identifying ruptured IAs. Among the morphologic parameters that we studied, SR_{Hmax} had the highest performance, better than traditional indices such as aneurysm size (D, H_{max}) and AR_{Hmax}. SR_{Hmax} incorporates H_{max} and vessel diameter, which is a surrogate for aneurysm location, another variable previously found to be well-correlated with IA rupture.³⁸

In a recent study, 17 research groups were asked to use their developed rupture classification models and identify the ruptured aneurysm in a single patient with SAH with 5 IAs. However, only 4 groups could correctly identify the true ruptured aneurysm.³⁹ In our study, we observed that some individual morphologic parameters, including SR_{Hmax} and H_{max}, outperformed RRS, a previously developed rupture classification model.¹⁶ This finding indicates that existing rupture classification models, including RRS, may not be tailored to such a specific problem, namely, the identification of the ruptured

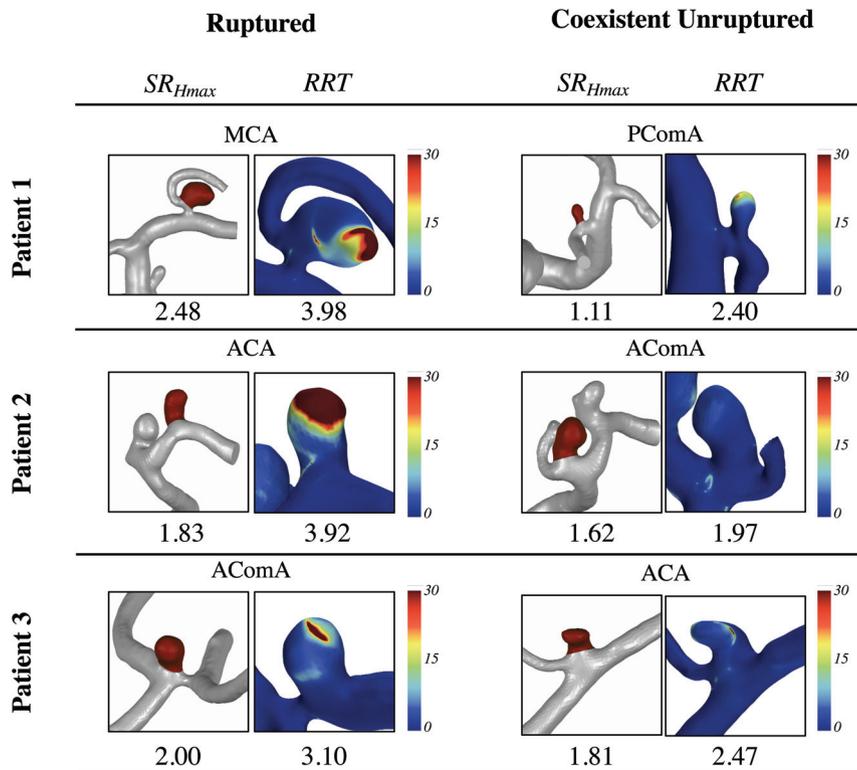


FIG 2. Size ratio (SR_{Hmax}) and relative residence time for all IAs in 3 representative cases (each patient had 1 ruptured and 1 unruptured IA). The number for the RRT is the spatiotemporal aneurysm averaged over the aneurysm sac.

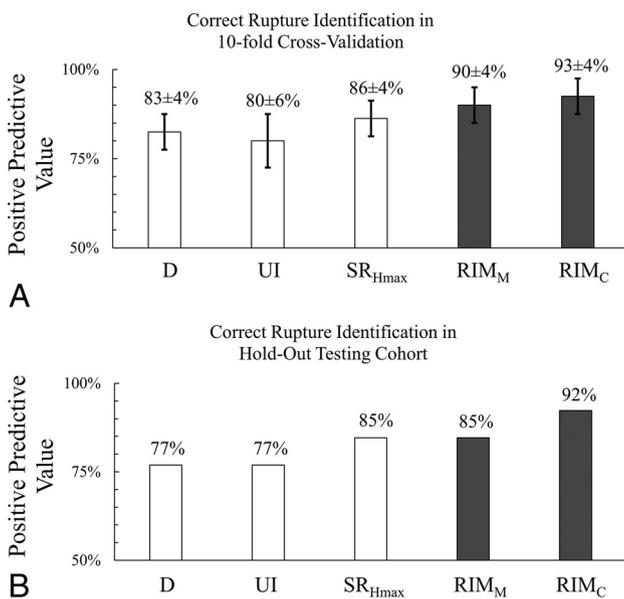


FIG 3. Comparison of rupture identification models (RIM_C and RIM_M) with the 3 existing rupture-risk predictors in identifying the ruptured IA in patients with SAH with multiple IAs in 10-fold cross-validation (A) and the holdout testing cohort (B).

IA in patients with multiple IAs. A plausible explanation is that those models were built on the basis of pooled data of individuals with multiple and single IAs. A previous study indicated that the characteristics or natural history of IAs in

patients with multiple aneurysms might be different from those with a single IA.⁴⁰ For instance, it was reported that posterior circulation aneurysms were less frequent in patients with multiple IAs than in patients with a single aneurysm, which we also observed in our study (only 3% of IAs were located at the posterior circulation). Moreover, previous models were trained to discriminate ruptured cohorts from unruptured cohorts without associating the coexisting IAs within each patient. Such factors were considered when generating the RIM_C and RIM_M . The RIM_C model incorporated aneurysm SR_{Hmax} , UI, RRT, and bifurcation type. SR_{Hmax} and UI represent aneurysm size and shape, respectively, which both are established morphologic metrics for identification of ruptured IAs. RRT is a hemodynamic parameter that incorporates both WSS and OSI. IAs with high RRTs are exposed to high near-wall flow stasis, which could promote inflammatory cell infiltration and aneurysm wall degradation, thereby

increasing the risk of aneurysm rupture.⁴¹ Bifurcation type is a surrogate for locations with high risk of rupture, including the anterior communicating artery, PICA, and posterior communicating artery.^{2,42}

As an alternative model that does not require hemodynamic parameters, RIM_M incorporates only morphologic factors, SR_{Hmax} , UI, and bifurcation. Although RIM_C slightly outperformed RIM_M , we believe that RIM_M will be more user-friendly in clinical settings by reducing the need for intensive CFD simulations.

Our novel predictive models (RIM_M , RIM_C) can be helpful in patients with SAH with hemorrhage patterns that are not definitive. In such cases, instead of solely relying on aneurysm size, shape, or location to delineate the ruptured source, the composite rupture identification models may provide more reliable identification.

Limitations

First, our study had a small sample size and was limited to saccular aneurysms, which could explain the low percentage of posterior circulation aneurysms (3%). Second, definitive hemorrhage patterns were used to identify the rupture source in some of our cases, but only craniotomy can reveal the true rupture status; therefore, there is a possibility of misidentification. Third, our cases came from 3 different centers, and there could be a difference in their aneurysm rupture patterns due to genetics. Fourth, we used several widely used simplifications to perform CFD simulations such as a rigid wall, Newtonian

blood, and generalized boundary conditions to make the computations tractable. Fifth, although we found excellent agreement among users in calculating morphologic and hemodynamic parameters, this was contingent on users following the protocol described in this study. It is unclear how well the rupture identification models will hold if different imaging modalities, segmentation methods, or CFD settings are used. Finally, we used only linear regression models because they were easier to customize for our specific problem. In addition, it was easier to interpret the components (eg, weights) of the final models. In future studies, the application of nonlinear models, such as artificial neural network and random forest, could be explored to account for possible nonlinear interaction among variables.

CONCLUSIONS

To identify ruptured IAs in patients with SAH with multiple IAs, SR_{Hmax} is the best predictor among individual morphologic parameters, including location and type, and hemodynamic parameters. However, composite models (RIM_C and RIM_M), specifically designed for identifying the ruptured IA in patients with multiple IAs, outperformed all individual parameters. Between the 2 models, RIM_C , which incorporated aneurysm hemodynamics, had a better positive predictive value in identifying ruptured IAs, than RIM_M . These findings may help to improve clinical identification of the ruptured IAs in patients with SAH presenting with multiple aneurysms.

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