

Case 3: "WORST HEADACHE OF MY LIFE" (Slides CC14-1,2)

CC: The patient is a 68 year old man who suddenly developed "**the worst headache of my life.**"

HPI/PMH: The patient has a history of severe diffuse atherosclerosis including coronary artery disease and peripheral vascular disease requiring multiple bypass operations. He has also been a heavy smoker for over 40 years. On the morning prior to admission he was walking in the hallway at home and at 10am he suddenly developed **WHOL** (worst headache of life) which began in the bifrontal area, and then over next few minutes spread all over his head and down the neck. He denies nausea, vomiting, loss of consciousness or vision changes.

Physical Examination: Unremarkable except for **mild nuchal rigidity.**

Questions:

1. What diagnosis is classically associated with sudden WHOL? What are the most common precipitating factors?