

Matter of **LIFE & Death**

■ Why you need ■ Second Opinion



Medical crisis goes undetected

It happened to a close medical friend of mine. He had been suffering from unbearable headache for more than a year. He had checked with a specialist at a medical centre in the city where he lives. He completed all the recommended tests, including MRI of the brain. The test results came back with nothing alarming to suggest he was suffering from major brain damage. He was given some headache pills. The pills did not work. The headache continued and got worse. My friend was terrified. Rightly so.

I had not known about it. We hadn't been in touch for a while. One day he called me and shared his story about his continuing headache and the fact that his specialists were not able to cure it or even find out what was causing it to persist.

Second Opinion saves a life

RAD365 offers second opinion services. So I asked him to send his MRI report to us. We immediately forwarded it to one of our American Board certified neuroradiologist in the United States. The diagnosis of the radiologist was a cause of dismay and shock to my friend. The second opinion said that he was suffering from a brain aneurysm. As Mayo Clinic describes on its website:

"A brain aneurysm (AN-yoo-riz-um) is a bulge or ballooning in a blood vessel in the brain. It often looks like a berry hanging on a stem. A brain aneurysm can leak or rupture, causing bleeding into the brain (hemorrhagic stroke). Most often a ruptured brain aneurysm occurs in the space between the brain and the thin tissues covering the brain. This type of hemorrhagic stroke is called a subarachnoid hemorrhage. A ruptured aneurysm quickly becomes life-threatening and requires prompt medical treatment."

This second opinion team helped him to take the necessary steps and he underwent treatment that finally got rid of the headache that he had been suffering from.

This is a glaring example of a primary diagnosis gone wrong and further delay could have been fatal for my friend. Second opinion ensures that the primary diagnosis is accurate (or not) and we at RAD365 get it done by our pool of American Board-certified radiologists. It is easy, quick (available online) and reasonably priced. It provides peace of mind to the patient. We offer second opinion in all sub specialties including: abdominal imaging, breast imaging, cardio imaging,, musculoskeletal radiology, , neuro radiology, nuclear medicine, pediatric radiology, thoracic imaging and vascular radiology.

In a 2010 study on second opinion consultations on neuroradiology published in the journal Radiology, it was found that "A 7.7% rate of discrepant interpretations (347 of 4534 studies) was noted for a service offering second-opinion consultations for outside examinations. Most were discrepancies in detecting abnormalities rather than in interpreting identified findings. When a definitive diagnosis was obtainable, the second-opinion consultation was more accurate in 84% of studies.

Review of outside studies benefits patient care

Zan, E., Yousem, D. M., Carone, M., & Lewin, J. S. (2010). Second-opinion consultations in neuroradiology. *Radiology*, 255(1), 135-141. <https://doi.org/10.1148/radiol.09090831>