



# Usefulness of 3-dimensional printed models in clipping intracranial aneurysms via keyhole approaches: a randomized controlled study

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#### **Purpose:**

The present study aimed to evaluate the clinical and educational efficacy of three-dimensional (3D) printed models in surgical clipping of intracranial aneurysms (IAs).

### Methods:

A single-center, randomized, controlled study was conducted for patients with one unruptured IA was clipped via a keyhole approach using a 3D printed model at a 1:1 scale between September 2021 and August 2022. A total of 28 patients were enrolled (n=13 in the case group, n=15 in the control). The usefulness of the model was determined based on treatment outcomes, patient counseling, and physician education.

**Results:** 

## 7th Bi-Neurovascular Symposium

September 22-23, 2023 / SIGNIEL, Busan, Korea





Compared to the control group, the total operation time was shorter (median 91 minutes versus 125 minutes; P = 0.02) and the volume of blood loss was lower (median 119.6 ml versus 234.0 ml; P = 0.01) in the case group. Patients' understanding of the operation improved significantly after counseling using 3D printed models in all aspects ( $P \le 0.02$ ). Although they failed to achieve a high rate of selecting a proper type of keyhole craniotomy, trainees subjectively considered that the 3D printed models were helpful.

### **Conclusions:**

The 3D-printed IA models were useful in improving the treatment outcomes, patient satisfaction with the preoperative counseling, and education of the surgical trainees.