

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Resident Poster Day

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## Not All 'Thunderclap' Headaches are Created Equal: A Case Report

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Though headache is a common symptom with a broad differential, postpartum headaches require special consideration by the physician. The post-dural puncture headache (PDPH) has an incidence of 0.5-1.7% in delivering mothers receiving epidural or spinal anesthesia. A PDPH presentation is highly variable, presenting within 24 hours or as late as a week later, and the headache itself can last from hours to days. This case highlights the need to evaluate PDPH with a broader differential due to potentially life-threatening underlying complications of the procedure. Though the mortality rate of pneumocephalus and particularly pneumoventricle is not well-studied, case reports have depicted cardiac arrests and deaths related to the condition. Treatment is controversial and dependent on clinical presentation. The treatment options include conservative management, normobaric continuous oxygenation at 5 L/min for five days, 100% oxygen, or hyperbaric chamber. An extreme variation of the pathology, tension pneumocephalus, is a devastating condition and is considered a neurosurgical emergency. In this case, conservative management led to symptom resolution without sequelae.