# The critical surgeries and recovery of Senator Joe Biden from brain aneurysms in 1988



In 1988, then-Senator Joe Biden underwent a series of critical surgeries following a diagnosis of two brain aneurysms, one of which had already ruptured. The medical emergency was severe, with Biden experiencing debilitating headaches and nearly fatal conditions that led to his hospitalization and surgeries at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Biden, who had been misdiagnosed with a pinched nerve initially, flew to Wilmington, Delaware, from Rochester, New York, after experiencing intense pain. At St. Francis Hospital in Delaware, an examination revealed the presence of an aneurysm. Given the seriousness of his condition, Biden was transported to Walter Reed for specialized treatment.

Neurosurgeon Neal Kassell, along with Eugene George, played critical roles in Biden's treatment. The surgeries involved placing a metal clip on the aneurysm to prevent further bleeding. Although complex and risky, the operations were successful, allowing Biden to eventually resume his political career without any reported permanent brain damage.

The incident not only highlighted the importance of medical expertise and advancements in treating such critical conditions but also played a significant role in shaping Biden's later life and career, demonstrating resilience and recovery. Biden, reflecting on the experience, has mentioned that it profoundly influenced his personal and professional perspective. Additionally, the treatment techniques for aneurysms have significantly advanced since Biden's surgeries, leading to quicker and less invasive options for patients today.