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Some General Methodological Concerns in  
the HSP

- Patterns of weight reduction meds not fully analyzed
- Events in the 24-48 hours prior to ictus
- More than half of cases not studied
- Control selection outcomes of concern--  
persons responding to telephone solicitation  
different

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## Case Heterogeneity in the HSP

- Differences in occurrence*
- Differences in risk factors*
- Differences in some known causes*
  - Arterio-venous malformations
  - Cerebrovascular aneurysms
  - Subarachnoid hemorrhage with aneurysm

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## Risk Factors: Issues Not Considered in the HSP Analyses

- Alcohol abuse and withdrawal in the period before the event
- Caffeine use (amount, sources, timing)
- Undiagnosed hypertension--still a profound risk factor for subarachnoid hemorrhage
- Proximate illicit drug history

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Substantial Differences in HSP Cases &  
Controls

<u>Risk Factor</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Contr</u>
Black race (Hispanics?)	21%	17
College graduate	39	62
Cig. smoking (curr.)	51	30
Hypertension hx	39	20
Family history of stroke	9	5
>2 alc. beverages/day	14	7
Cocaine use	1.7	0.1
[? Caffeine; ? BMI]		

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