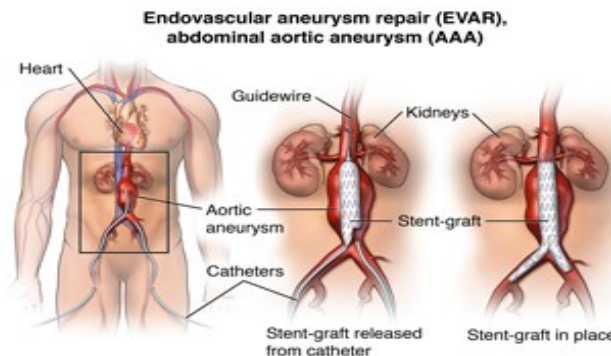
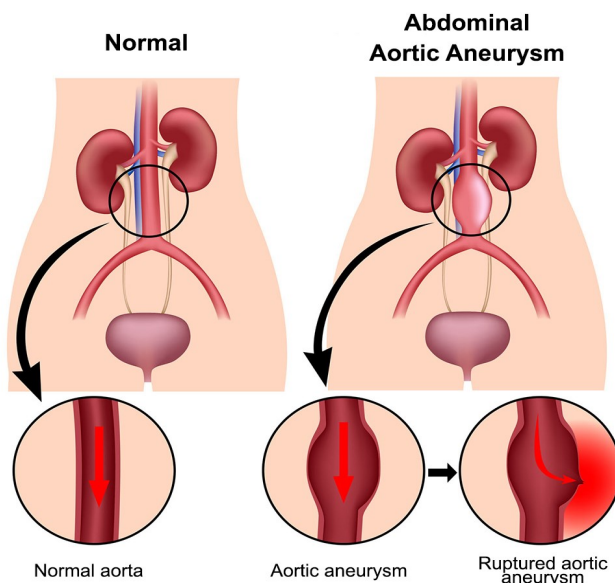


Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

The aorta is the largest artery in your body. It connects your heart to every other organ and carries blood to them. It is the main pipe of your body. The blood inside the aorta is under high pressure so it can transport blood efficiently. The wall of the aorta must therefore be strong to withstand this pressure. However, it can degenerate over time with increasing age and the effects of smoking, diabetes and high blood pressure. As the wall becomes weaker it starts to stretch and balloon. The stretching is called an aneurysm. **Aneurysms are one of the most dangerous medical conditions as the weakened wall can rupture and cause life threatening internal bleeding. Ruptured abdominal aneurysms have a mortality rate of 80%.**



Ruptured Aneurysms

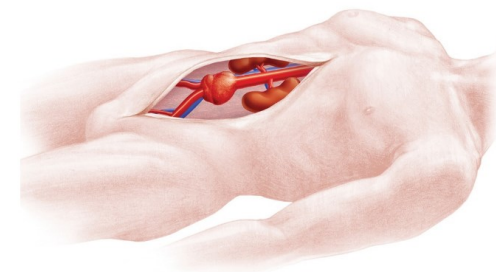
Aortic aneurysms can occur in the chest or the abdomen and both have a risk of rupture. Ruptured aneurysms cause severe back and abdominal pain, fainting, low blood pressure and tachycardia. All these happens as blood is leaking inside your body. ***It is a medical emergency and the only chance of survival is with surgery. Even with surgery only 1 in 4 persons will survive a ruptured aneurysm.***

Preventative Repair

Preventative surgery is advised to avoid aneurysm rupture when they get to a certain size. Abdominal aneurysms >5cm and thoracic aneurysms >6cm should be repaired. It is advocated by all major professional organisations including the Society for Vascular Surgery and can save lives. Repair can be done with traditional open surgery and with minimally invasive endovascular surgery.

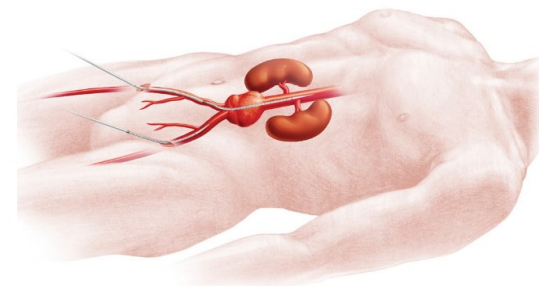
Open Repair

Traditional open aneurysm repair requires an extensive surgery where aorta is removed and replaced with a polyester graft. It requires a large incision, a long hospital stay and long recovery. It is still an effective treatment but has largely been replaced by Endovascular Aneurysm Repair (EVAR). It is now mostly used in patients who are not candidates for EVAR.



Endovascular Repair (EVAR)

Endovascular repair involves placing a stent graft into the aorta to reline the aorta. The graft excludes the aneurysm, depressurizes it and eliminates the risk of rupture. It only requires two small cuts in the legs and the device is delivered from inside the blood vessel. It is very safe and has been shown to be just as effective as open repair with less blood loss, shorter surgery, hospital stay and recovery.



Book your consultation to learn more about AAA



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