

Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is diagnosed when the aorta, the main blood vessel in the body, bulges to more than 3 cm in diameter in the abdomen. Common risk factors for AAA include male sex, smoking, high blood pressure, age, high cholesterol, and family history of AAA or other heart diseases. AAA occurs in 9% to 22% of men and 2% to 6.2% of women above 65 years old. It is important to get screened to prevent risk of rupture as death may occur if not treated. Often AAA has no symptoms before rupture. Treatment for AAA is recommended when diameter is greater than 5.5 cm in men and 5.0 cm in women. Typical treatment is through surgical repair.

In screening for AAA in adults without symptoms, with or without a family history of AAA or with or without a history of smoking, ultrasound (US) (<http://www.radiologyinfo.orgabdominus>) aorta abdomen is usually appropriate. US duplex Doppler aorta abdomen may be appropriate.

For more information, see the *Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm* page (<http://www.radiologyinfo.orgabdoaneurysm>) .

—By Elaine Liang and Sherry S. Wang, MBBS. This information originally appeared in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*.

Disclaimer

This information is copied from the RadiologyInfo Web site (<http://www.radiologyinfo.org>) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality information. To ensure that, each section is reviewed by a physician with expertise in the area presented. All information contained in the Web site is further reviewed by an ACR (American College of Radiology) - RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) committee, comprising physicians with expertise in several radiologic areas.

However, it is not possible to assure that this Web site contains complete, up-to-date information on any particular subject. Therefore, ACR and RSNA make no representations or warranties about the suitability of this information for use for any particular purpose. All information is provided "as is" without express or implied warranty.

Please visit the RadiologyInfo Web site at <http://www.radiologyinfo.org> to view or download the latest information.

Note: Images may be shown for illustrative purposes. Do not attempt to draw conclusions or make diagnoses by comparing these images to other medical images, particularly your own. Only qualified physicians should interpret images; the radiologist is the physician expert trained in medical imaging.

Copyright

This material is copyrighted by either the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), 820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251 or the American College of Radiology (ACR), 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4397. Commercial reproduction or multiple distribution by any traditional or electronically based reproduction/publication method is prohibited.

Copyright © 2026 Radiological Society of North America, Inc.