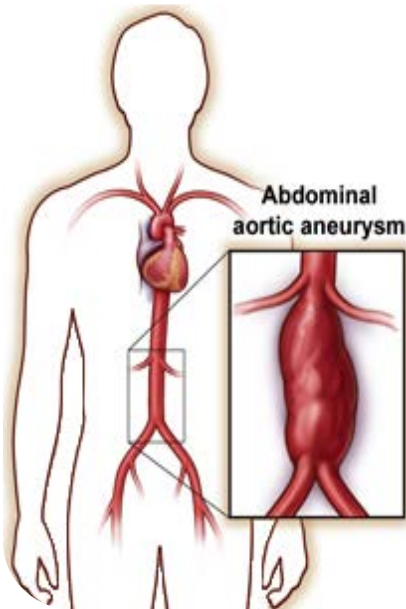


ABDOMINAL AORTA ANEURYSM (AAA)

What is the abdominal aorta?

The aorta is the largest artery in your body, and it carries oxygen-rich blood pumped out of, or away from, your heart. Your aorta runs through your chest, where it is called the thoracic aorta. When it reaches your abdomen, it is called the abdominal aorta. The abdominal aorta supplies blood to the lower part of the body. In the abdomen, just below the navel, the aorta splits into two branches, called the iliac arteries, which carry blood into each leg.



What is an Abdominal Aorta Aneurysm (AAA) ?

AAA is a weakening that can form a bulge or ballooning in the walls of the abdominal aorta. A normal aorta is about 1 inch (2cm) in diameter. However, an AAA can stretch the aorta beyond its safety margin as it expands. AAA is a serious health risk because they can burst or rupture causing severe internal bleeding and sudden death. Each year, approx. 200,000 people in the United States are found to have an AAA and 15,000 die from undetected AAA rupture. Fortunately, a painless ultrasound screening can detect AAA early, before it causes rupture and sudden death.

Solution

Using harmless and painless sound waves, AAA can be seen on the abdominal aorta. AAA can be as big as a baseball and cause no noticeable symptoms. Ultrasound is the most effective, affordable way to detect AAA early. Early detection remains one of the best weapons to prevent rupture and sudden death.

