

Important Patient Information

Data suggests that around 10,000 patients in the UK die each year as the result of an abdominal aortic aneurysm and many more have surgery to prevent rupture after the condition has been diagnosed.

It is estimated that 1 in 50 men will die of a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm.

A normal ultrasound scan at the age of 60 years or older is an excellent indicator that a patient will not develop AAA in the future.

Ultrasound is a very safe, quick, non invasive method of imaging the abdominal aorta.

GP Care offers a private AAA screening service for patients at a number of locations in and around Bristol using high specification ultrasound equipment.

The cost is £70 for an AAA scan and results are immediately available.

About GP Care

GP Care is a recognised provider of enhanced primary healthcare services including diagnostics, outpatient and ancillary services to NHS and private patients within Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and BANES.



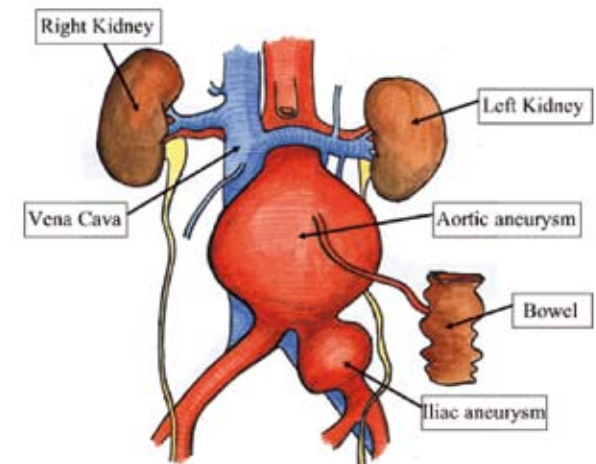
Clinics in various locations for patients in the Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and BANES PCT areas

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HAVE YOU BEEN SCREENED ?



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

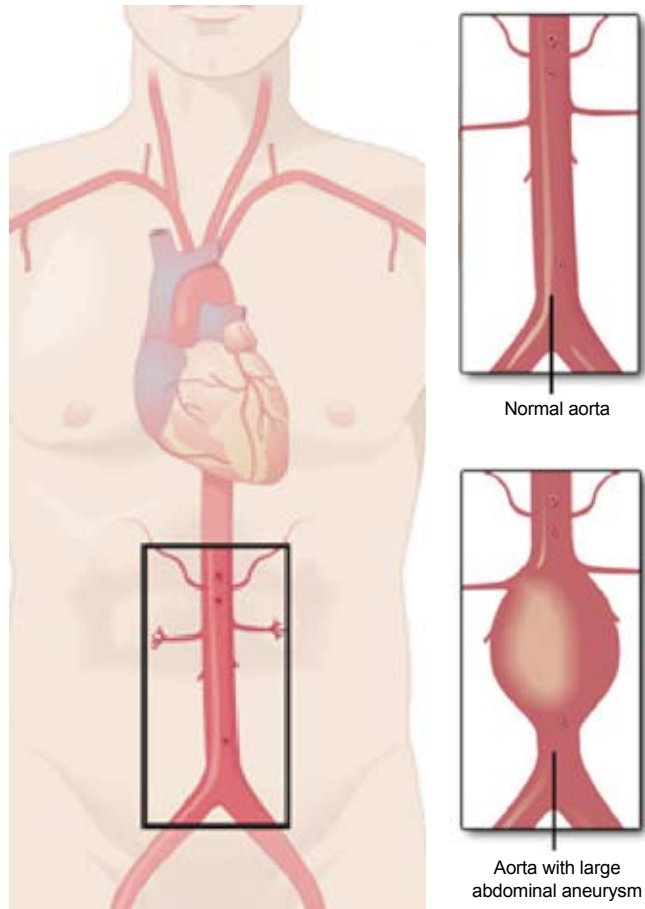
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What is an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)?

An aortic aneurysm is an abnormal enlargement of the main artery which carries blood from the heart. An aneurysm can rupture when the artery becomes too enlarged, which can lead to death.

It is estimated that aortic aneurysms kill at least 10,000 patients in the UK every year. Many more have surgery to prevent ruptures after the condition has been detected.



How are aneurysms detected?

An ultrasound scan is a quick, accurate and harmless way to find out if a patient has an abdominal aortic aneurysm and assess the risk of rupture.

What does an ultrasound scan involve?

Ultrasound is a painless non invasive method of imaging organs within the body.

During the scan a water based gel will be placed on the patient's tummy and the ultrasound probe is moved over the skin. Images and measurements are then taken.

Ultrasound gives a black and white image of the blood vessel, in this case the abdominal aorta. From this image the size of the blood vessel can be accurately measured.

The information obtained from the scan will be used to plan what will happen next:

- If the scan is normal, a report will be given to the patient and a copy sent to the GP for the patient records.
- If an aneurysm is detected – the GP will be informed and the appropriate action instigated.

Do you need a scan?

As many as 1 in 50 men will die from a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. Effective screening of the population for AAA, followed by surgery when necessary, will almost completely eliminate death due to the rupture of an AAA.

You are at risk if any of the following apply to you:

- Are you male? Six times more men than women have an aortic aneurysm and are likely to develop it earlier in life.
- Over 55 years old? AAA is very rare under the age of 55.
- Family history of AAA? The risk is higher if a close family member has an aortic aneurysm. Your risk is approximately four times higher if one of your parents died from an aneurysm.
- Are you a smoker?
- Do you have high blood pressure?
- Do you suffer from heart disease or vascular disease?
- Have you had a stroke?

How and where can you get an AAA scan?

GP Care offers abdominal aortic aneurysm screening as a private service at various locations in and around Bristol.

The all inclusive cost is £70 and this includes a report for the patient to keep and a copy for the patient's GP to keep with their records.

For more information or to book an appointment contact GP Care UK Ltd on 0117 970 8983.