



## Why should I be screened?

Effective screening, followed by surgery when necessary, will almost completely eliminate death due to the rupture of an AAA.

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

## Where can I be screened?

GP Care offer Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening as a private service at several locations in the Bristol area:

- Almondsbury Surgery, South Gloucestershire
- Christchurch Medical Centre, Downend, Bristol
- West Walk Surgery, Yate, Bristol
- Whiteladies Health Centre, Clifton, Bristol

The all inclusive cost is just £75, including a report for you and for your GP.

## About GP Care

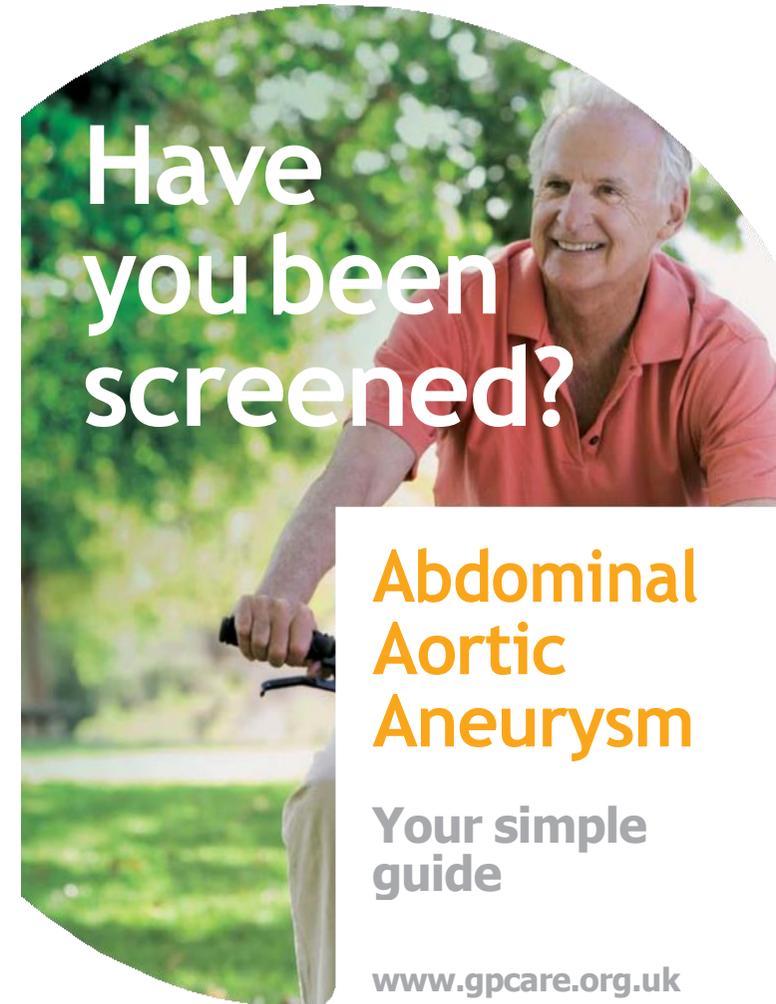
GP Care is a recognised provider of community based healthcare services including diagnostics, outpatient and ancillary services to NHS and private patients.

## How do I make an appointment?

Please have your debit or credit card to hand, as we require payment at the point of booking. Confirmation of the appointment, a receipt and directions to your chosen medical centre will be sent to you once this is completed.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.gpcare.org.uk](http://www.gpcare.org.uk).

**Please call GP Care on 0333 332 2106 to make an appointment.**



# Have you been screened?

## Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

### Your simple guide

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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 at least 10,000 people die from an aortic aneurysm in the UK every year and many more have surgery to prevent ruptures after the condition has been detected.

## How do I know if I'm at risk?

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? AAAs are 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?

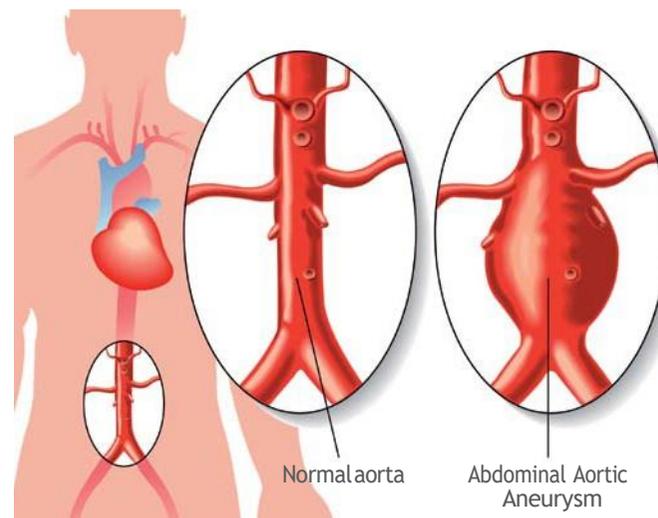
## How are Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms detected?

An ultrasound scan is a quick, accurate and harmless way to find out if a patient has an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and to 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 chest and the ultrasound probe is moved over the skin down toward the groin. Images and measurements are taken during this process.



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.

## Information for Patients

It is estimated that 1 in 50 men will die from a ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm.