

## Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

The aorta is the largest artery in the body. It arises from the heart at the aortic valve as the ascending aorta. The ascending aorta then turns, forming an arch, and descends through the diaphragm into the abdomen. After passing through the diaphragm, it is called the abdominal aorta. Disease in the descending and abdominal aorta is much more common than in the ascending aorta and will be due to atherosclerosis with the associated risk of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD). Atherosclerosis is vascular disease due to lipid and calcium deposition in arterial walls; the layman's term is "hardening of the arteries". The disease leads to narrowing (stenosis) or dilation (aneurysms) or tearing (dissection) between the layers of the arterial wall. Ultrasound and CT scanning are excellent ways to measure aortic aneurysms and dissections. Due to the high mortality of ruptured aortic aneurysms, surgery is done when the aneurysm is 5-6 cm. in size.

**If your client has a history of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, please answer the following:**

1. Please list date of initial diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Has your client had any of the following tests or treatment?

(If yes, please note dates and size if appropriate)

Ultrasound \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (size)

CAT Scan \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (size)

Surgery \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

3. Has the aneurysm been stable in size for 2 or more years?

Yes or No? If No please give details?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Are any of the following present?

(Check all that apply and give initial diagnosis)

Pain in the legs with walking \_\_\_\_\_

Elevated cholesterol \_\_\_\_\_

Hypertension \_\_\_\_\_

Diabetes \_\_\_\_\_

Coronary artery disease \_\_\_\_\_

Cerebrovascular disease \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is your client on any medications?

If yes, please give details

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6. Has your client smoked cigarettes or used any form of tobacco in the last five years?

If yes, please give details

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7. Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: cancer, etc.)?

If yes, please give details and send the appropriate questionnaire.

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