



What is an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm?

An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a weakening and enlargement of the aorta. The aorta is the main blood vessel that carries blood from your heart to the arteries of the kidneys, abdomen and legs.

An aortic aneurysm can be dangerous, as over time, it can grow bigger and burst without warning. This can be fatal.

Treatment:

MVP treats AAA utilizing either open surgery or endovascular repair. Open surgery is done on roughly 30% of patients with AAA, and endovascular repair is 70%. Open surgery is often times due to patient anatomy and condition. Your surgeon will determine which treatment is most appropriate for you.

- **Open aortic aneurysm repair:** During this surgery, an incision is made into the abdomen, the aneurysm is located and the wall of the aorta is replaced with a hollow tube, called a graft, and is sewn into place. This surgery takes approximately 3-4 hours. This surgery requires a hospital stay from 3-5 days.
- **Endovascular Stent Grafting (also called EVAR)** is a minimally invasive treatment that uses a stent graft, which is inserted through a catheter via small incisions in both femoral arteries (near the groin). The graft will expand to replace the weakened aorta wall, and the catheter is removed. This procedure takes approximately 3 hours. This surgery requires a hospital stay from 1-2 days.

