

ENDOVASCULAR ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURISM (AAA) REPAIR



Procedure Date: _____

Please follow your surgeon's specific preparation instructions prior to your procedure. He will give them to you in the office.

LOCATION: Ambulatory Cardiac Unit (inside the Aultman Heart and Vascular Center)

WHAT TIME SHOULD I ARRIVE?

The hospital surgical staff will call you in the afternoon the day prior to your test with your arrival time. The approximate time of your procedure is not known until the day before your test. If you will not be available at that time to receive the call, or if you don't get a call by 4 p.m., please call to confirm your arrival time.

- Surgical scheduling: 330-363-0254

Please use the Bedford (6th Street) entrance on arrival to the hospital.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please review this information prior to coming to the hospital.
- You will be given an appointment to have your preadmission testing done. Please bring all your medications with you to your appointment.
- Do not eat or drink anything except for sips of water with your medication(s) after midnight the night before your procedure.
- Please bring all your medications to the hospital the day of your procedure. They will be sent home with you. **You will not be permitted** to take medications brought in from home while you are in the hospital.
- Other instructions _____

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE: An Abdominal Aortic Aneurism (AAA) is an area of the large blood vessel in the abdomen (aorta) that is stretched out and weakened. If the aneurism breaks open, it can cause life-threatening bleeding into the abdomen. An AAA repair is done to reinforce the weakened area to prevent the blood vessel from rupturing open.

An aneurism repair may be done in two ways. Ideally, it can be done without performing a major surgery in which the abdomen is opened with an incision. This procedure is called an ENDOVASCULAR procedure.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

An endovascular AAA repair is done in a hybrid operating room specially designed for this procedure. A specially trained doctor, known as a vascular surgeon, will perform your procedure.

A small incision is made in both groins. A long, thin tube (catheter) is inserted into the blood vessels leading to the aorta. Using special X-ray, the catheter is guided to the aneurism site. Once the catheter is in the correct position, a stent (wire mesh) expands to cover the aneurism area.

If for some reason an endovascular AAA repair cannot be done (this may be known before surgery or after attempting an endovascular repair), a surgical repair may be needed. This surgery is done through an incision made in the abdomen. It is a very effective way to repair an aneurism, but your recovery time will be longer, and risks may be higher with this major surgery.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE HOSPITAL:

- This packet of information.
- A copy of your living will or durable power of attorney for health care (advance directives) if you have one.
- Any toiletry items you would like.
- Bring all your current medications. **You will not be permitted** to take your home medications while in the hospital, but the nurses need the names(s) and dosage(s) of each medication.
- Please **do not bring valuables** to the hospital such as purse, wallet, jewelry, money, credit cards, etc. Bring only your ID and insurance cards.

LENGTH OF THE PROCEDURE: The procedure usually takes about two hours.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE: You will be admitted to the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) for a few days to recover from the surgery.

DEPARTMENT: Arrive at the Ambulatory Cardiac Unit in the Heart and Vascular Center to be prepared for surgery.

QUESTIONS PRIOR TO YOUR PROCEDURE:

Call your doctor office for any questions about your procedure.

SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION: Pre-registration is required for an accurate medical record and proper billing. You may be contacted by a patient access representative if we need any information. If you have questions or need to reschedule your procedure, please call the doctor who will be doing your procedure.

HOSPITAL PARKING:

Free visitor parking is available in Lot 3 across from the Bedford building. Enter from 6th Street. Valet parking is available at the 7th Street and Bedford building entrances for a fee – or free if you are a handicapped motorist. Deck parking is available on 7th Street for a fee based on your length of stay.

DIRECTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT:

Heart and Vascular Center (Lot 3 parking is the closest parking) is located on the first floor of the Bedford building. After entering the Bedford lobby, turn to your right and enter the Heart and Vascular Center. Please sign in on the kiosk (iPad) by typing in your name and have a seat on the left side of the waiting room until you are called.