



NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening (AAA)

The NHS AAA Screening Programme is co-ordinated and led nationally by Public Health England. Screening services are delivered locally in line with national quality standards and protocols.

What is an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

The aorta is the main blood vessel that supplies blood to your body. It runs from your heart down through your chest and abdomen. In some people, as they get older, the wall of the aorta in the abdomen can become weak. It can then start to expand and form an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Large aneurysms are rare but can be very serious. As the wall of the aorta stretches it becomes weaker and can burst, causing internal bleeding. Around 85 out of 100 people die when an aneurysm bursts.

Why is screening important?

If you have an aneurysm you will not usually notice any symptoms. This means you cannot tell if you have one, will not feel any pain and will probably not notice anything different. We offer screening so we can find aneurysms early and monitor or treat them. This greatly reduces the chances of it causing serious problems. The easiest way to find out if you have an aneurysm is to have an ultrasound scan of your abdomen.

Who is most at risk?

Men are six times more likely to have an abdominal aortic aneurysm than women, which is why women are not offered screening. The chance of having an aneurysm increases with age. Around 1 in 70 men who are screened have an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Your chances are also increased if:

- You are or have ever been a smoker.
- You have high blood pressure.
- Your brother, sister or parent has, or has had an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Men over the age of 65 who have not been screened, can telephone the Centre (based at South Manchester Hospital) on ☎ 0161 291 5716 and ask for an appointment.

The Patient will need their NHS number.

South Park Surgery's male patients who turn 65 this year will receive their screening invitation on / after April 2019.