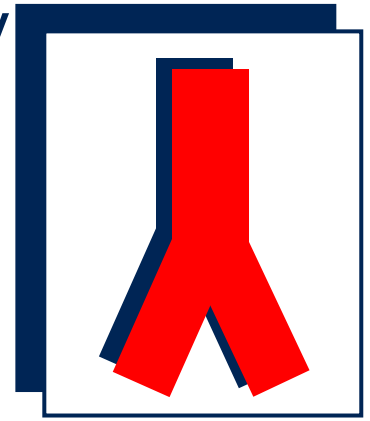


Will Butcher – Vascular Surgery

General practitioner – Frequent Questions

More information available at: www.willbutchervascular.com



FAQ: I think my patient has a ruptured or leaking AAA.

Signs of a ruptured aneurysm include:

- Collapse
- Low blood pressure (But may be normal or even high)
- Cold and clammy
- New onset back or abdominal pain (Most patient with this do not have a ruptured AAA – but a high index of suspicion is required in men over 55years).

Settle the patient down.

Examine his or her abdomen feeling for a pulsatile mass.

If the patient walked into your practice feeling fine and still does so the risk is very low, an urgent referral for ultrasound and then CTScan if a AAA is found is a good next step.

If the patient remains symptomatic with pain or collapse Call 000 first, then call your local vascular surgeon, whoever answers the telephone be sure to use the term "ruptured AAA". It is very likely that there is a plan for this sort of eventuality. Most surgeons who can, will stop what they are doing to talk to you and help you make the next decision. Alternatively, be sure to communicate your concerns to the ambulance crew who will likely also know where the best place to go is.

If you think the patient has a ruptured AAA, this is a life threatening emergency, urgent transfer to an environment where the patients can be cared for by a vascular surgeon is essential.