Schedule your appointment with the Vascular & Interventional Specialists of Charlotte Radiology.

Our Interventional Radiologists are experts in vascular care, able to treat AAA and a variety of other conditions using minimally invasive techniques.

To schedule a consultation with one of our Interventional Radiologists, please call 704.358.IRMD.

Visit CharlotteRadiology.com for more information on procedures, technology, our subspecialized physicians and more.

AAA TREATMENT

The softer side of surgery.
What is an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)?

The aorta is the largest artery in the body, bringing blood to major organs, including the bowel, kidneys and legs. Aortic aneurysms occur when the wall of the aorta is weakened, causing the aorta to enlarge or balloon outward. If the aneurysm becomes large enough, there is a risk of rupture, which can be a life threatening event. Treatment for AAA or “Triple A”, is recommended when the risk of rupture outweighs the risk of repair, which usually occurs when the aneurysm measures 5cm or greater, enlarges quickly or is causing symptoms.

How is AAA diagnosed?

While patients may complain of abdominal or back pain, aneurysms can also develop over many years with no symptoms. Occasionally, AAA can be diagnosed by physical exam, but often imaging is required. Your doctor may want to check for a AAA with an ultrasound, which uses sound waves to visualize the size of the aorta, or a CT scan, which uses X-rays to visualize the aorta and evaluate for the presence of an AAA.

How is AAA treated?

Until recently, surgery was the only way to repair an AAA. This required general anesthesia and a large surgical incision in the abdomen in order to repair the abnormal aorta. Fortunately, most aneurysms can now be repaired using minimally invasive endovascular techniques.

Over the past few decades, Interventional Radiologists, among other vascular specialists, have pioneered a minimally invasive alternative known as endovascular aortic repair (EVAR). Through small punctures in the arteries in the thigh, physicians use small tools such as catheters and wires to navigate through the arteries and repair the aorta from the inside using a stent graft (a synthetic fabric to line the abnormal wall of the aorta). This procedure makes large incisions and open surgery unnecessary.