

Wei Li, M.D.

What is an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

00:06

Okay, abdominal aorta aneurysm is a dilatation of the aorta, which is the biggest blood vessel in the human body.

Are there symptoms?

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Most of the abdominal aortic aneurysm are not symptoms, they are asymptomatic. However, they do develop symptoms when they rupture, or close to rupture.

What are the symptoms?

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The most common symptoms is pain, abdominal pain is sudden abdominal pain. And there are some complications of the abdominal aortic aneurysm besides the rupture, which I just mentioned, the other most common symptom is distal we call embolization, which our patient had prior to this aorta aneurysm repair, meaning the clot formed inside the aneurysm and travel distillate to block distal organs such as leg and which that's what symptoms this patient had.

What is most at risk for this aneurysm?

01:07

So the risk factors for the aneurysm include several most common one is the smoking. And in addition to that, being a white and male carries higher risk than average in terms of developing the abdominal aorta aneurysm so if the patient has a family history of aneurysms, those individual also have a higher risk of developing aneurysms.

What is this aneurysm typically treated?

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So there are two kind of typical treatments for aneurysms. Traditionally, an open repair and minimally invasive endovascular repair. Both procedures are commonly done in last 25 years. But in the current age of time, most of the aorta aneurysms are treated with endovascular technique. The regular EVAR can treat aneurisms that are below at a certain distance of renal arteries. However, if the aneurysm involved the blood, the aorta segments close to the renal arteries. In that situation, we will need to have a special designed graph to treat those aneurysms such as fenestrated graft.

How soon can a patient be released after this procedure?

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The patient can be after the fenestrated era procedure, patient can be released to the hospital as soon as early as they want after surgery.

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Is this approved by the FDA?

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This fenestrated endovascular graft is only a graft approved by the FDA in 2012.

What is the typical candidate for this procedure?

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The typical candidate for this procedure are the patients who are not qualified for the traditional open repair, nor they are qualified for the routine endovascular repairs.

How long have you been doing this procedure?

03:10

So I have been doing the fenestrated endovascular aneurysm repair for five, six years and in different institutions prior to my arrival to the Texas Tech. This appear to be the first one in the region. And the first one I perform in Texas Tech. Although you know however, I've done this for five, six years.