

Female patients

X-rays can be harmful to an unborn baby and should be avoided by any woman who is or may be pregnant. If you think you may be pregnant, please contact the department.

Can you bring a friend or relative?

Yes, but for reasons of safety, they will not be able to accompany you into the Interventional Radiology Suite.

What happens after the procedure?

After the procedure you will initially be taken to recovery to awake from the anaesthetic. You will then be moved to a ward.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Please contact us if you need general information or advice about Trust services:

www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/pals

Large print and other languages

This information can be made available in alternative formats, such as easy read or large print, and may be available in alternative languages, upon request. For more information, speak to your clinical team.

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Bu bilgi, kolay okunurluk veya büyük baskılar gibi alternatif biçimlerde sunulabilir, ve talep üzerine Alternatif Dillerde sunulabilir. Daha fazla bilgi için klinik ekibinizle irtibata geçin.

یہ تکس ایج یک ہای تسد یم سٹی مراف لدابت تم تامول عم ہی
ٹنرپ اڑب ای ناس ا یم ین ہڑپ مک اس ج، سی اور درخواست
پر متبادل زبانوں میں بھی دستیاب ہو سکتی ہیں۔ مزید معلومات
کے لیے، اپنی کلینکل ٹیم سے بات کریں!

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Patient information

Having an Endovascular Aneurysm Repair



What is an Endovascular Aneurysm Repair?

An aneurysm is a weakness in a blood vessel wall that causes it to stretch and become bigger, and there is a risk of internal bleeding if it ruptures. Aneurysms found in the Aorta and Iliac arteries are treated using metal stents covered with a fabric (a graft).

Why is it done?

The endovascular aneurysm repair is done to minimise the risk of the aneurysm rupturing and causing internal bleeding which could lead to death. The procedure involves the insertion of a graft which sits inside the blood vessel to provide strength and stability.

Before your procedure

Please inform the department if you are allergic to iodine or any anaesthetising medicines or if you are unable to attend your appointment.

Medication and pre-operative preparation

You should not eat or drink for six hours before the procedure. Please take all your medication as usual with a sip of water unless you are on warfarin (blood thinner).

On the day of the procedure you will be admitted into the hospital via the admissions unit. You will be changed into a hospital gown and seen by an Anaesthetist. These procedures are most often done under a general anaesthetic.

The doctor will check your medical history and if you have any allergies. They will then explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have. You will be required to sign a consent form.

What happens during the procedure?

You will be taken to the operating theatre and you will be put to sleep by the Anaesthetist. Once you are asleep, the procedure involves a tube being inserted into one or both groins to allow access to the arteries.

Sometimes it is necessary to make incisions into the groins to allow access to the arteries. A series of wires and catheters are inserted into the arteries, to allow the graft to be positioned in the aneurysm. The position of the graft is checked using fluoroscopy (real time X-ray) and injections of a contrast medium (radio-opaque substance).

Once the graft is in the correct position the doctors will remove all the other devices.

You will be taken to recovery after the operation and spend time recovering on the ward.

The procedure will be performed by an Interventional Radiologist (Specialist Doctor), a Vascular surgical team, a Radiographer and Radiology nurses will assist.

How long will the procedure take?

The procedure can take anything between 1 hour and 4 hours depending on the complexity.

Please be aware that every effort is made to keep your appointment, however since the hospital deals with a large number of emergencies, which cannot be planned, there may be unavoidable cancellations and delays.

What are the benefits?

- Stenting of the aneurysm minimises the risk of rupture
- Accessing the arteries through the groin as opposed to traditional open surgery minimises the risk of infection and decreases the recovery time.

What are the risks?

The risks of the procedure will be explained to you by the doctor before you sign the consent form. You will regular follow-up with a CT scan afterwards.

What are the alternatives?

The alternative is to have an operation called an open aneurysm repair. The option will be discussed with you by your referring doctor.