



What is it?

An aneurysm is an abnormal enlargement of a blood vessel, causing a weakening of the wall of the artery. 'Visceral' is a term used for an organ in your body, such as the liver, kidney or spleen. A visceral aneurysm is an aneurysm that occurs in one of these organs.

In many circumstances, these can be treated from inside the blood vessel, rather than by open or laparoscopic surgery.

Who is it for?

Aneurysms are treated to avoid rupture of the artery, however not all aneurysms require treatment. The decision to treat depends on patient factors, as well as the size, imaging appearance and any recent changes in the aneurysm. Your interventional radiologist will discuss these factors with you in clinic prior to your operation.

How is it done?

This procedure can be done under local anaesthetic, sedation, or general anaesthetic, in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment.

Your interventional radiologist will pass a small catheter (tube) into the artery of the groin or wrist, guiding it under x-ray control to the aneurysm.

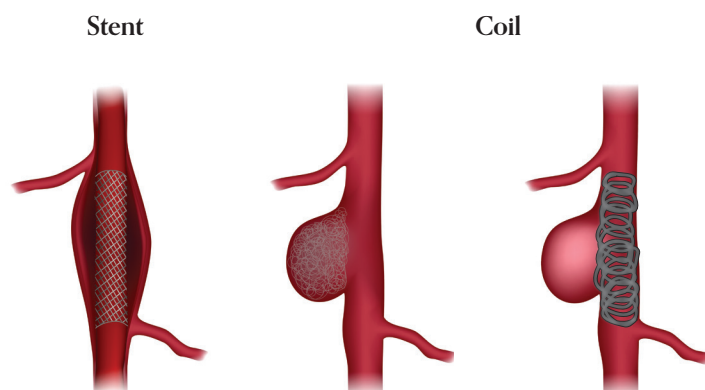
The aneurysm may be treated in several different ways. The aneurysm may be blocked using a range of materials including, soft metal coils or plugs, adhesive or non-adhesive liquid, or tiny plastic or foam particles. This causes cessation of blood flow to the aneurysm, but allowing sufficient blood flow to the organ. Alternatively, a stent may be placed across the aneurysm which excludes the aneurysm and allows normal blood flow to the organ. Both of these techniques will seal off the aneurysm from the bloodstream and negate the risk of rupture.

What are the risks?

There is a small risk of bleeding from the access site, infection or incomplete treatment. There is also a risk of damage to the organ supplied by the artery involved, however your doctor will discuss these risks with you in detail before your operation.

Follow up

You will be scheduled for follow up scan and clinic appointment with your interventional radiologist about 4 - 6 weeks afterwards to review the success of the procedure.



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