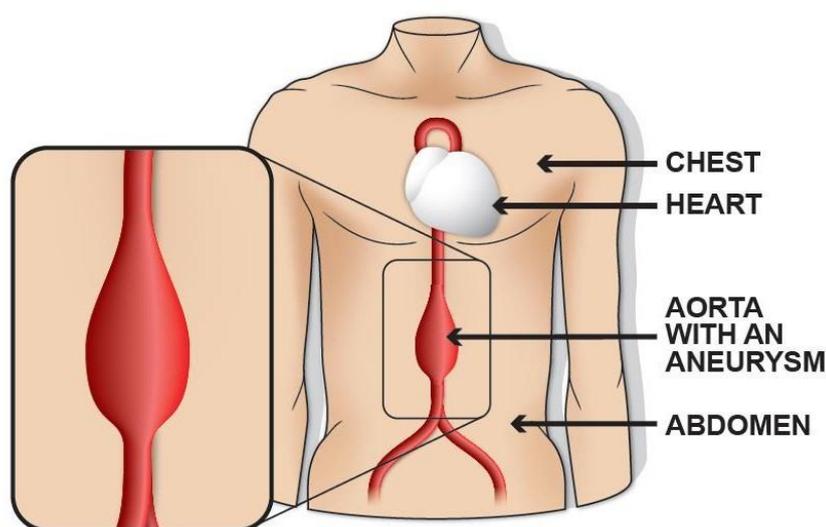


Men urged to avoid ‘Silent Killer’

Men are being urged to attend one of the newest NHS Screening Programmes. The Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme is aimed solely at men who are aged 65 years and over. Men who are in their 65th year will automatically be invited to a screening clinic near to them, but those who are aged 66 and over can self-refer onto the Programme. All that is involved is a free one-off, painless 10 minute ultrasound scan of the abdomen with the results given at the end of the scan.

The aorta is the main blood vessel that supplies blood to your body. It runs from your heart down through your chest and abdomen. In some people, as they get older, the wall of the aorta in the abdomen can become weak. It can then start to expand and form an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). Large aneurysms can be serious. As the wall of the aorta stretches it becomes weaker and can burst (rupture) which can lead to death. The condition is most common in men aged 65 and over, with around 1 in 70 men who are screened having a AAA. Research has demonstrated that offering men ultrasound screening in their 65th year could reduce the rate of premature death from ruptured AAA's by up to 50%.



The programme is based at the Royal Derby Hospital but all clinics are community-based and we hold clinics at 31 locations throughout the whole of Derbyshire mainly at GP practices, including the Ivy Grove Surgery and Health Centres. Last year we invited 5900 men in their 65th year of which on average 87% attended.

Men who are born prior to the 1st April 1947 and wishing to be screened can contact us 01332 789859 or email us at dhft.AAAScreening@nhs.net