



BIG HORN MEDICAL IMAGING CENTER

Advanced Imaging. Local Care. Trusted Results.

ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA) SCREENING

A Simple Ultrasound That Could Save Your Life

An Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening is a safe, painless ultrasound that checks the size of your abdominal aorta—the body's largest artery. An aneurysm occurs when the wall of the aorta weakens and enlarges. If an aneurysm continues to grow, it can rupture, causing life-threatening internal bleeding.

Because most abdominal aortic aneurysms develop without symptoms, screening is the best way to detect an aneurysm before it becomes an emergency.



WHAT IS AN AAA SCREENING?

An AAA screening uses ultrasound to measure the diameter of your abdominal aorta and identify any enlargement or aneurysm.

The examination is:

- Safe and non-invasive
- Painless
- Radiation-free
- Completed in about 10–15 minutes
- Performed without needles or injections



WHO SHOULD BE SCREENED?

AAA screening is recommended for:

- Men ages 65–75 who have ever smoked.
- Adults with a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysm.
- Individuals with cardiovascular disease or significant vascular risk factors.
- Adults with a history of smoking, high blood pressure, or peripheral artery disease who are at increased risk.



RISK FACTORS

You may be at increased risk if you have:

- ✓ Age 65 years or older
- ✓ Current or previous tobacco use
- ✓ High blood pressure
- ✓ High cholesterol
- ✓ Family history of AAA
- ✓ Peripheral artery disease
- ✓ Coronary artery disease
- ✓ Male sex



BENEFITS OF SCREENING

Early detection can:

- ✓ Identify an aneurysm before symptoms develop.
- ✓ Reduce the risk of aneurysm rupture.
- ✓ Allow monitoring before surgery becomes necessary.
- ✓ Help guide treatment and improve long-term outcomes.
- ✓ Provide peace of mind if your aorta is normal.



ARE THERE ANY RISKS?

Ultrasound screening carries no known health risks.

- No radiation exposure
- No injections or contrast dye
- No recovery time



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY SCREENING?

A physician will review your ultrasound and provide a report of your results.

Depending on the findings, your healthcare provider may recommend:

- Routine follow-up examinations
- Risk factor modification
- Blood pressure and cholesterol management
- Referral to a vascular specialist