

# Aortic Aneurysm: Types, Symptoms, Causes, Diagnosis

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## Perspective

Your heart is that the most vital muscle in your body. During your lifetime it'll pump enough blood to fill about three supertankers. The aorta is that the largest vessel within the body. Although your aorta may be a tough, durable workhorse, sometimes its walls can weaken and bulge in what's called an aneurysm. This might cause a leak that spills blood into your body.

Some aortic aneurysms burst, some don't. Others force blood flow off from your organs and tissues, causing problems, like heart attacks, kidney damage, stroke, and even death.

## Types of Aortic Aneurysms

There are two locations of aortic aneurysms. One, within the chest, may be a thoracic aneurysm. The opposite is within the abdomen and is named an abdominal aneurysm.

### Thoracic Aneurysm

Genes play a task in your chances of getting an aneurysm in your chest. Conditions that folks are often born thereupon can affect the aorta include a bicuspid semilunar valve, Marfan syndrome, and Loeys-Dietz syndrome. Other causes for thoracic aneurysm might include:

- High vital sign
- Infection
- Plaque buildup in your arteries (atherosclerosis)
- High cholesterol
- Sudden traumatic injury

You might not know you've got a thoracic aneurysm because symptoms often don't show up until the aneurysm becomes large, or bursts. But because it grows, you'll notice some signs, including:

- Chest or back pain
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Shortness of breath
- Coughing
- Hoarseness

Your doctor often can diagnose a thoracic aneurysm with tests like an X-ray, an echocardiogram, CT scan, or ultrasound. It is also often monitored on an annual basis to assess for growth.

Routine screenings, especially for specific genetic conditions, also can help your doctor determine if your likelihood is that higher. If they are, they could prescribe medications to lower your cholesterol and reduce your vital sign. If your aneurysm becomes a serious problem or grows rapidly in size, you would possibly need surgery. Your doctor will replace the damaged section of your aorta with a man-made tube. Once it's in situ, the graft will make that section of the aorta stronger.

### Abdominal aortic aneurysm

Abdominal aneurysm will happen within the portion of your aorta that passes through your abdomen. There are usually no telltale signs to warn you that something is wrong. Still, you would possibly have:

- Back pain
- A deep pain on the side of your abdomen
- A throbbing sensation near your navel
- If the aneurysm ruptures, you would possibly feel sick to your stomach, or suddenly develop an intense pain in your back or abdomen. You would possibly vomit, become sweaty, or feel dizzy.

Doctors don't really know what causes an abdominal aneurysm, although they think a couple of things might play a role:

Hardening of the arteries, which doctors also call atherosclerosis

- Smoking
- High vital sign
- Genetic
- Predisposition

Doctors also think the risks increase if you injure yourself, have an infection, or if your blood vessels become inflamed. Genetics also play a task.

If the doctor diagnoses you with an abdominal aneurysm, there are often an opportunity of blood clots. Small clots can form within the area of the aneurysm, break off, and flow to the legs, kidneys, or other organs.

### Diagnosis and Treatment

As with a thoracic aneurysm, your doctor can sometimes detect an abdominal aneurysm during a routine exam. They could suggest an ultrasound screening; too, especially if you're a person from 65 to 75 years old who has ever smoked, or they think your chances of getting an aneurysm are high. If they find a bulge, and it's small, they could want to stay an eye fixed thereon to form sure it doesn't get bigger and become a drag later. If the aneurysm is large, you would possibly need surgery or a stenting procedure to treat it, counting on its location. Thoracic aneurysm Genes play a task in your chances of getting an aneurysm in your chest. Conditions that folks are often born thereupon can affect the aorta include a bicuspid semilunar valve, Marfan syndrome, and Loeyes-Dietz syndrome.