

You have been booked to have an AAA study at Vascular West

Your doctor has asked for an AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm) study. The test gives us important information about your abdominal artery.

An AAA study is an ultrasound test of the abdominal region specifically to measure the size of the aorta (main central artery in the body coming directly from your heart).

You will need to fast (nothing to eat or drink) for up to 4 hours prior to this test. This does not apply to insulin dependent diabetics.

A full AAA study takes up to 45 minutes to perform, however in most instances will be completed in 15 minutes. You will be asked to lie flat and an ultrasound probe and gel will be applied to your abdomen. Ultrasound used for the purpose of diagnostic values is completely harmless, however if you are or may be pregnant please let the sonographer know prior to the test. Ultrasound is also completely painless although probe pressure may cause some minor discomfort.

The aorta is the largest artery in the body and is subject to the greatest pressure exerted to its walls. For a variety of reasons this can cause the walls of the artery to distend and dilate to abnormal diameters. The sonographer will take all appropriate measurements and will also look at the other major arteries in the abdomen.

A report will be completed by the sonographer and finalised by one of our vascular surgeons. This will then be sent to your referring doctor and/or GP within 48 hours.

If you have any questions regarding the test, or would like more information please call our office on 9381 7772. **Please make sure you bring the referral from your doctor to the appointment or check with the reception staff prior to the appointment that we have a copy.**