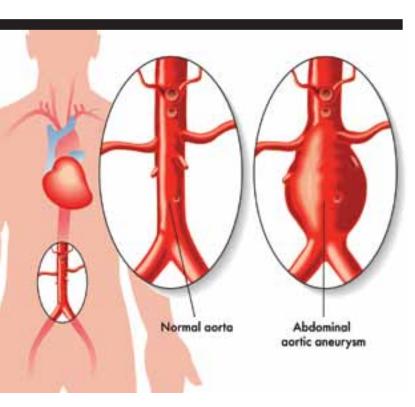
Providing lifesaving treatment for

abdominal aortic aneurysms





LEARN MORE about our Cardiac & Endovascular Center.

Over the Past 30 Years Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA) have accounted for more than 15,000 deaths each year. AAA occur in the lower part of the aorta, the major blood vessel that supplies blood to the body, when it is weakened and bulging. If the aneurysm ruptures it can cause life-threatening bleeding.

Hallmark Health System (HHS) has put an exceptional team of physicians, nurses and staff in place to provide lifesaving endovascular care to this area. HHS's Cardiac & Endovascular Center, located at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, is the only center of its kind in the region. While HHS's endovascular experience extends more than 20 years, for the past four years highly-trained surgeons have been performing endovascular repairs of AAA and other endovascular procedures in this state-of-the-art center.

AAA affects approximately 8 percent of the population over the age of 65. Patients at highest risk for AAA are males over the age of 60 who have smoked and/or have a history of atherosclerosis or a family history of AAA. The traditional technique for repair of an AAA requires an abdominal incision, a long hospital stay and a four to six week recovery period. By comparison, patients who have an endovascular repair at HHS are often discharged the day after the procedure and can return to their normal lifestyle within two weeks.

"The superior quality of the imaging within the Center and the skill of the nurses and technical staff allow us to perform these complicated procedures in a more timely and efficient fashion than was traditionally done in the operating room," said Michael N. Tameo, MD, a vascular surgeon.

HHS's physicians have been leaders in introducing advanced vascular treatment, the latest healing strategies and endovascular techniques to this area. Vascular disease can range from life threatening AAA to circulatory problems caused by blockages of arteries and veins. Endovascular procedures (minimallyinvasive procedures designed to access various regions within the body via major blood vessels) often correct these problems. HHS's vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists have specialized, advanced training in many minimally invasive endovascular procedures.

"The Center enables vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists to provide state-of-the-art abdominal aortic stenting procedures without having to go to one of the teaching hospitals in Boston," said Michael J. Naylor, MD, a vascular surgeon. "Now with the addition of several different types of stent grafts we are now able to treat virtually all abdominal aneurysms."



For more information

For more information on the Cardiac & Endovascular Center, visit www.hallmarkhealth.org and select "Clinical Programs."