

Frequency of surveillance scans for small aneurysms can be reduced for most patients

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In contrast to the commonly adopted surveillance intervals in current abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening programs, surveillance intervals of several years may be clinically acceptable for the majority of patients with small AAA, as the smallest AAAs often do not appear to change significantly over many years, according to a meta-analysis of previous studies reported in the February 27 issue of *JAMA*.

"The survival rate following rupture of an [abdominal aortic aneurysm](#) is only 20 percent, making AAAs an important cause of [mortality](#)," according to background information in the article. "In patients with small AAA (diameter

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