

What is Aneurysmal Disease?

Aneurysmal disease is a condition involving the weakening and enlargement of blood vessels. These weakened areas can lead to various types of aneurysms (bulges) in the arteries. These commonly occur in arteries of the legs and arteries supplying the major organs.

! Causes of Aneurysms

The precise cause of aneurysmal disease is not always clear, but there are certain factors that contribute to its development. The primary causes include:



Age: Individuals over 60 years are most likely to develop the condition



Gender: Males are more prone to the condition than females



History of atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries)



Genetics



High blood pressure



Smoking



Pregnancy



Infection

This leaflet should not replace your discussion with Dr Theivendran. It is solely intended to assist you in understanding peripheral aneurysmal disease..

What Are The Symptoms of an Aneurysm?



POOR BLOOD FLOW

- If there is poor blood flow to the organs, you may experience organ dysfunction
- If there is poor blood flow to your legs, you may experience pain in your limbs.



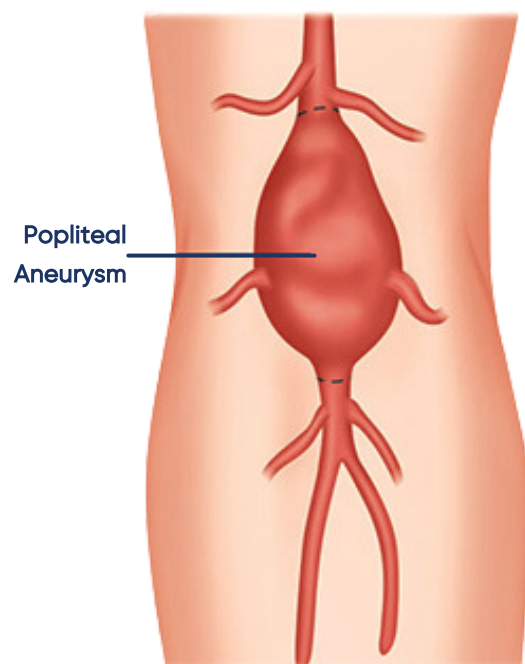
RUPTURE

- Sudden pain
- Collapse
- Death



OFTEN ASYMPTOMATIC

- Found incidentally



How is Aneurysmal Disease Diagnosed?

Early diagnosis of aneurysmal disease is essential to assess the risks of complications. Several diagnostic methods are employed:



ULTRASOUND

This non-invasive test using sound waves to create images of the blood vessels, providing information about the size and location of an aneurysm.



COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCAN

A CT scan produces detailed cross-sectional images that can help determine the size and shape of the aneurysm.



MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

An MRI scan uses magnetic fields and radio waves to create detailed images that are helpful in diagnosing aneurysms.



ANGIOGRAPHY

In this procedure, a contrast dye is injected into the blood vessels, and X-rays are taken to provide clear images of the arteries.

What Are The Complications of Aneurysmal Disease?

If left untreated, aneurysmal disease can lead to severe complications, including:

- **Aneurysm Rupture:** the most critical complication is the rupture of the aneurysm. This can cause life-threatening bleeding and is considered a medical emergency.
- **Blood Clots:** Aneurysms can promote the formation of a blood clot, which affects blood flow to the limbs or vital organs.
- **Embolism:** Embolisms are small pieces of blood clot or plaque that break off and travel to other parts of your body, leading to complications, depending on where they end up.

How is Aneurysmal Disease Treated?

The treatment approach for aneurysmal disease depends on the size and location of the aneurysm, as well as your overall health. For a slow-growing aneurysm, Dr Theivendran will recommend a surveillance program with regular ultrasound checks and medical therapy.

Medications

Medications are typically used to manage aneurysms and associated risk factors. These may include:

- **Blood pressure medication:** Controlling high blood pressure is crucial to prevent further damage to the weakened blood vessel walls.
- **Cholesterol-lowering medications:** Reducing cholesterol levels can help slow down the progression of atherosclerosis, which is often a contributing factor to aneurysms.

Do I Have to Get Treatment For My Aneurysm?

Whether you need to have your aneurysm repaired depends on its location and the likelihood of complications. Dr Theivendran will recommend surgery if peripheral aneurysm is at risk of blockage or rupture.

- **Blood thinners:** These blood-thinning medications can help prevent blood clots from forming within the aneurysm.
- **Beta-blockers:** Dr Theivendran may prescribe one of these blood pressure lowering drugs to reduce the risk of an aneurysm rupturing.

Surgical Procedures For Aneurysmal Disease



ELECTIVE SURGERY

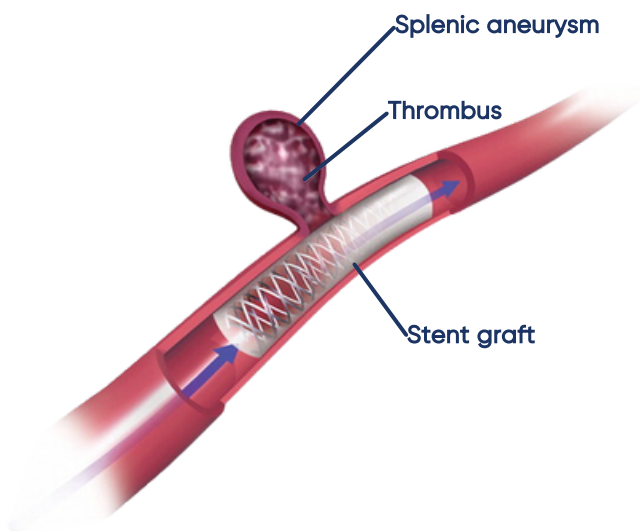
Elective surgery performed prior to any complications from the aneurysm.



URGENT SURGICAL INTERVENTION

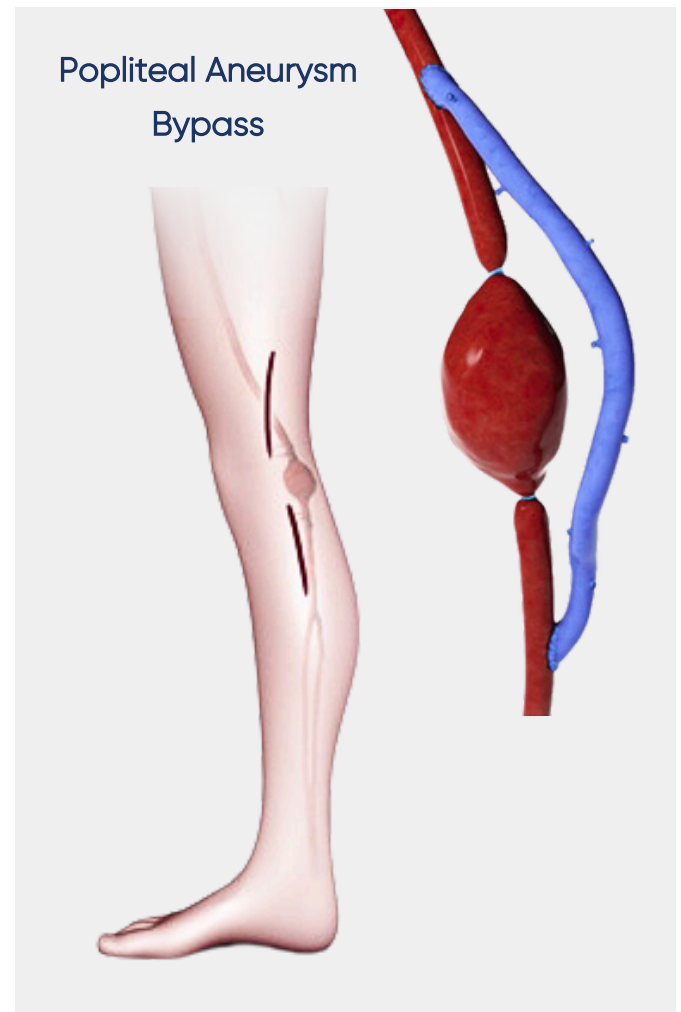
Urgent surgical intervention may be necessary for a large or rapidly-growing aneurysm, or in situation of rupture or blockage.

Endovascular Intervention



Bypass of Blocked Aneurysm

If a blood clot has formed within the aneurysm, this procedure may be used to bypass the blockage.



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