

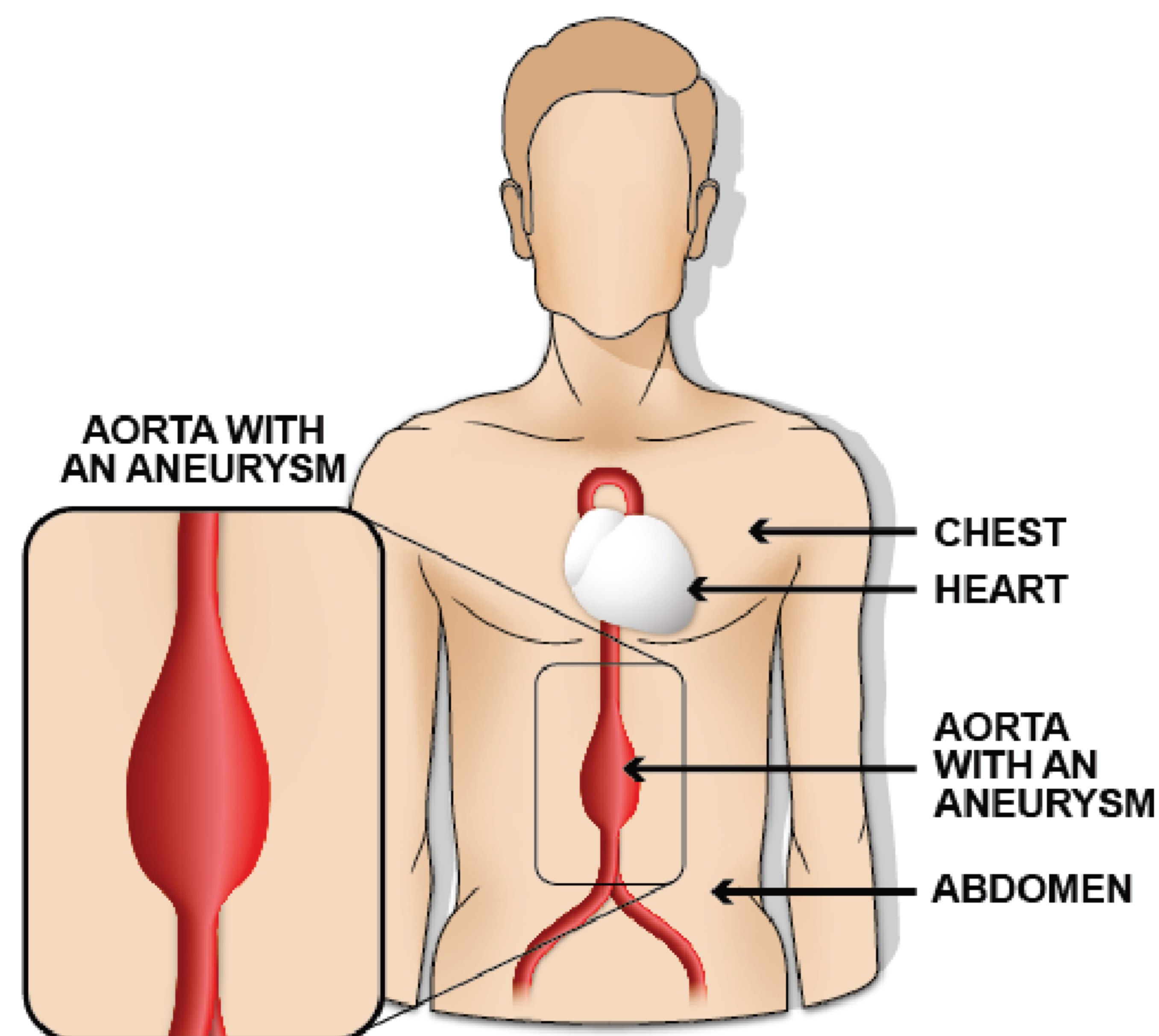
NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme: deciding whether to be screened

This information sheet is for men aged 65 and over. It is to help you decide if you want to get screened for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA).

An AAA is formed when the main blood vessel in the body weakens and starts to expand. As they expand, large AAAs can burst. This is a medical emergency that is fatal in around 80 out of every 100 cases.

Men aged 65 and over are most at risk of AAA. The NHS AAA Screening Programme invites men in England for screening during the year they turn 65. Men over 65 can contact the programme to arrange to be screened.

Research shows screening should prevent around 2,000 premature deaths from ruptured AAA every year through early detection, appropriate monitoring and treatment.



Your choice

Screening is a choice. There are 2 options for men aged 65 and over. You can:

- Attend screening**
- Decline screening**

All screening involves a balance of benefits and risks. See the back of this information sheet for information about the potential benefits and risks of both options.

Here are some questions you may want to consider before deciding whether to be screened for abdominal aortic aneurysm:

Would you want to know if you had an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

Would you be willing to have major surgery if screening showed that you had a large abdominal aortic aneurysm that could be repaired?

Possible results

No aneurysm found:

About 985 out of every 1,000 men screened are reassured that no aneurysm has been found and are not offered any further tests.

Aneurysm detected:

About 15 out of every 1,000 men screened have an aneurysm and are either invited back for regular tests or given an appointment with a surgeon to discuss treatment options.

Find out more at www.nhs.uk/aaa