

	US AAA Retroperitoneal Limited		
	Reviewed:	Date: 1/4/2022	
	Revised:	Date: 1/4/2022	

PURPOSE

Practice parameter for the performance of diagnostic and screening ultrasound of the abdominal aorta in adults.

SUPPORTIVE DATA

- Obtain a written, verbal, or electronic order from provider
- Verify that written orders are scanned into Epic
- Previous relevant imaging procedures

INDICATIONS

Diagnostic evaluation for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm including but not limited to:

- Palpable or pulsatile abdominal mass or abdominal bruit
- Unexplained lower back pain, flank pain, or abdominal pain
- Follow-up of a preciously demonstrated abdominal aortic aneurysm
- Follow-up of patients with abdominal aortic and/or iliac endoluminal stent graft

Screening evaluation for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (Medicare) including but not limited to:

Medicare Part B covers abdominal aortic screening US once if you're at risk. You are considered at risk if:

- You have a family history of AAA
- You're a man age 65-75 and have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your lifetime

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- There are no absolute contraindications.
- If aortic rupture or dissection is clinically suspected, ultrasound is not usually the examination of choice.

EQUIPMENT LIST

- Real-time ultrasound scanner with transducer of appropriate frequency
- Gel
- Towels
- Patient gown (if applicable)

SAFETY

- Universal precautions for bodily fluids should be observed as per hospital protocol.
- All ultrasound carts are annually checked and are up to date with all state and manufacturer guidelines.
- Exams will be prioritized according to ordering status (STAT, ASAP or Routine)

PATIENT PREPARATION

- Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours prior to exam
- Ok to take medications with sips of water

PROCEDURE

1. Check provider's orders for reason for exam and any comments.
2. Review report of patient's most recent ultrasound, relevant imaging or relevant labs if applicable.
3. Start exam in Epic
4. Verify patient by 2 patient identifiers (name, DOB, wristband).
5. Process should be explained to patient.
6. Have patient change into gown if appropriate
7. Perform imaging procedure
8. End exam in Epic

IMAGING PROCEDURE

A normal Retroperitoneal Limited AAA ultrasound will aim to include the following views:

1. Sag Aorta Prox w/ Measurement
2. Trans Aorta Prox w/ Measurement
3. Sag Aorta Mid w/ Measurement
4. Trans Aorta Mid w/ Measurement
5. Sag Aorta Distal w/ Measurement
6. Trans Aorta Distal w/ Measurement
7. Trans Rt CIA Prox w/ Measurement
8. Trans Lt CIA Prox w/ Measurement
9. Document pathological findings with all appropriate additional views to include color doppler and/or pulsed wave doppler

DOCUMENTATION

1. Written, verbal, or electronic order from provider

2. The worksheet and images need to be scanned into PACS under appropriate exam and put online.
3. Ultrasound images should be labeled with anatomy imaged and orientation (SAG or TRANS)
4. All images are submitted with above documentation for dictation and stored in PACS
5. For all STAT, ER and Urgent Care ultrasound exams, call radiologist for preliminary report to give to ordering provider
6. If it is between 2200 - 0700, submit exam along with proper documentation to teleradiology

REFERENCE

- Approved by Pharmacy and Therapeutics Board on 08/14/2020
- Approved by Medical Executive Team on 09/11/2020
- Approved by Medical Director, Dr. Muneer Desai, on 08/20/2020
- Approved by Radiology Protocol Committee on 3/9/2020
- [ACR 2015 Practice Parameters](#)

References

Reference Type	Title	Notes
Documents referenced by this document		
Referenced Documents	ACR 2015 Practice Parameters	