

Aorta Ultrasound

More Information: AAA (General)

The International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery/Society for Vascular Surgery has defined an AAA as a focal dilation of the abdominal aorta that results in a diameter at least 50% larger than the expected normal diameter.¹ From a clinical standpoint this definition can be problematic since the normal aorta falls within a range of numbers, depending on gender, body habitus and age. Looking further into the relationship of aging to aortic dilatation, it was found that an infrarenal aortic diameter in excess of 29 mm is always above the upper limit of normal, regardless of gender, body habitus and age.² Based on this findings, it appears that the most practical definition is a diameter of 30 mm or greater.

References:

1. Johnston, KW, Rutherford RB, Tilson MD, et al. Suggested standards for reporting on arterial aneurysms. Subcommittee on Reporting Standards for Arterial Aneurysms, Ad Hoc Committee on Reporting Standards, Society for Vascular Surgery and North American Chapter, International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery. *J Vasc Surg* 1991;13:452-458.
2. Lederle FA, Johnson GR, Wilson SE, et al. The Aneurysm Detection and Management (ADAM) Veterans Affairs Cooperative Study Investigators. Relationship of age, gender, race, and body size to infrarenal aortic diameter. *J Vasc Surg* 1997;26:595-601.