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Deferring AAA Repair: Best Medical Management Based on Evidence-Based Medicine

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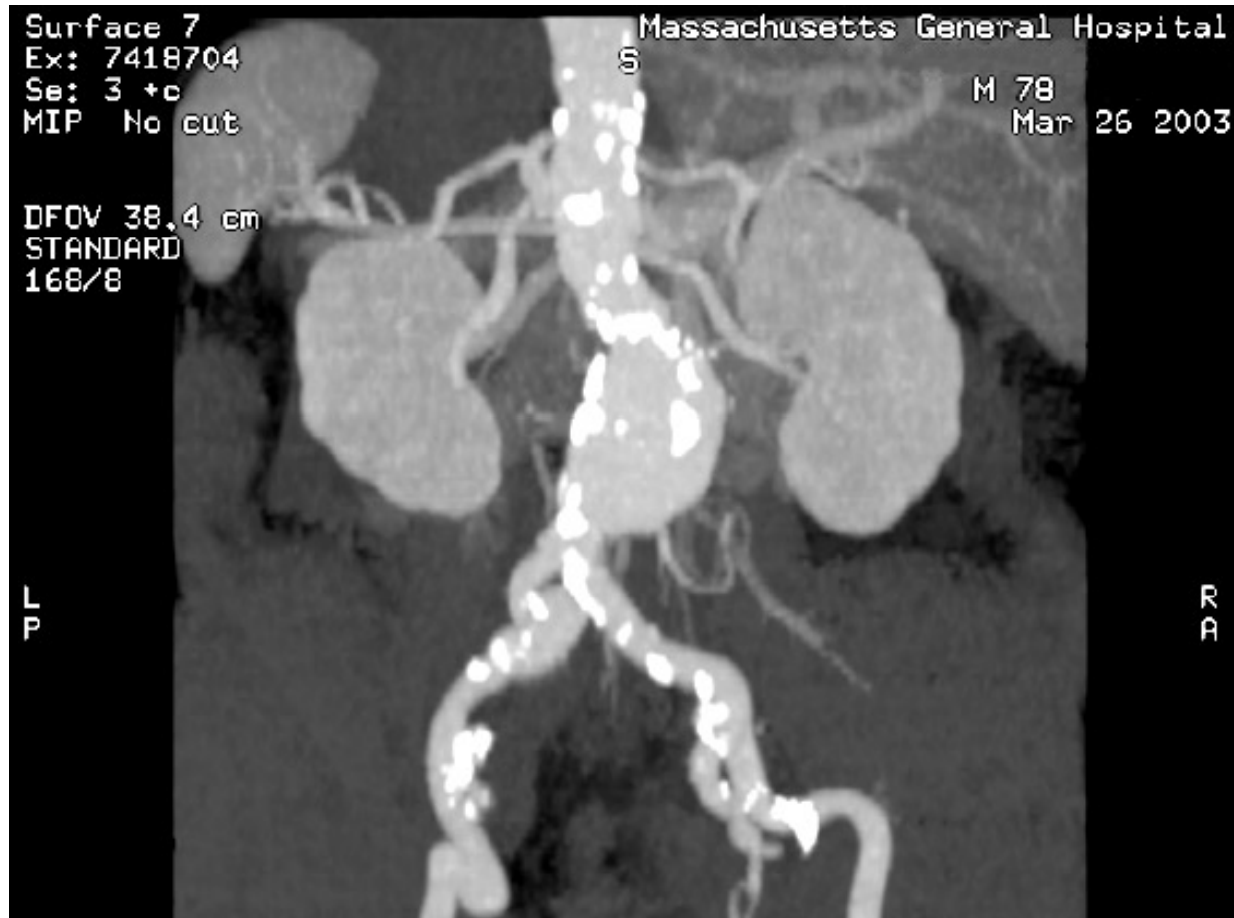
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Conflicts of Interest

- **Consultant**
 - Abbott Vascular (non-compensated)
 - Becker Venture Services Group
 - Bluegrass Vascular Therapies
 - Cordis Corporation(non-compensated)
 - Covidien (non-compensated)
 - Hansen Medical
 - Medtronic (non-compensated)
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Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms



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Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): Scope of the Problem

- Defined most often as aortic diameter ≥ 3.0 cm
- Occur in 5 % of men ≥ 65 years of age
- Prevalence increasing four-fold over the past 3 decades
 - Aging population
 - Improved and more readily available imaging techniques
- If untreated 1/3 will cause death from rupture
 - Rupture causes 15,000 deaths annually in the US
 - 10th leading cause of death in male Medicare population
- Readily detectable and correctable.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: Risk Factors

- Major risk factors
 - Age (particularly age > 65)
 - Male gender: Men 4-10 x more likely to have AAA than women
 - Smoking
- Atherosclerosis risk factors
 - Hypertension
 - Hyperlipidemia
 - Atherosclerotic vascular disease (CAD, CVD, PAD)
- Genetic predisposition
 - First-degree relative with AAA = 30% increased risk
 - AAAs tend to occur at a younger age and carry greater risk of rupture than do sporadic aneurysms.

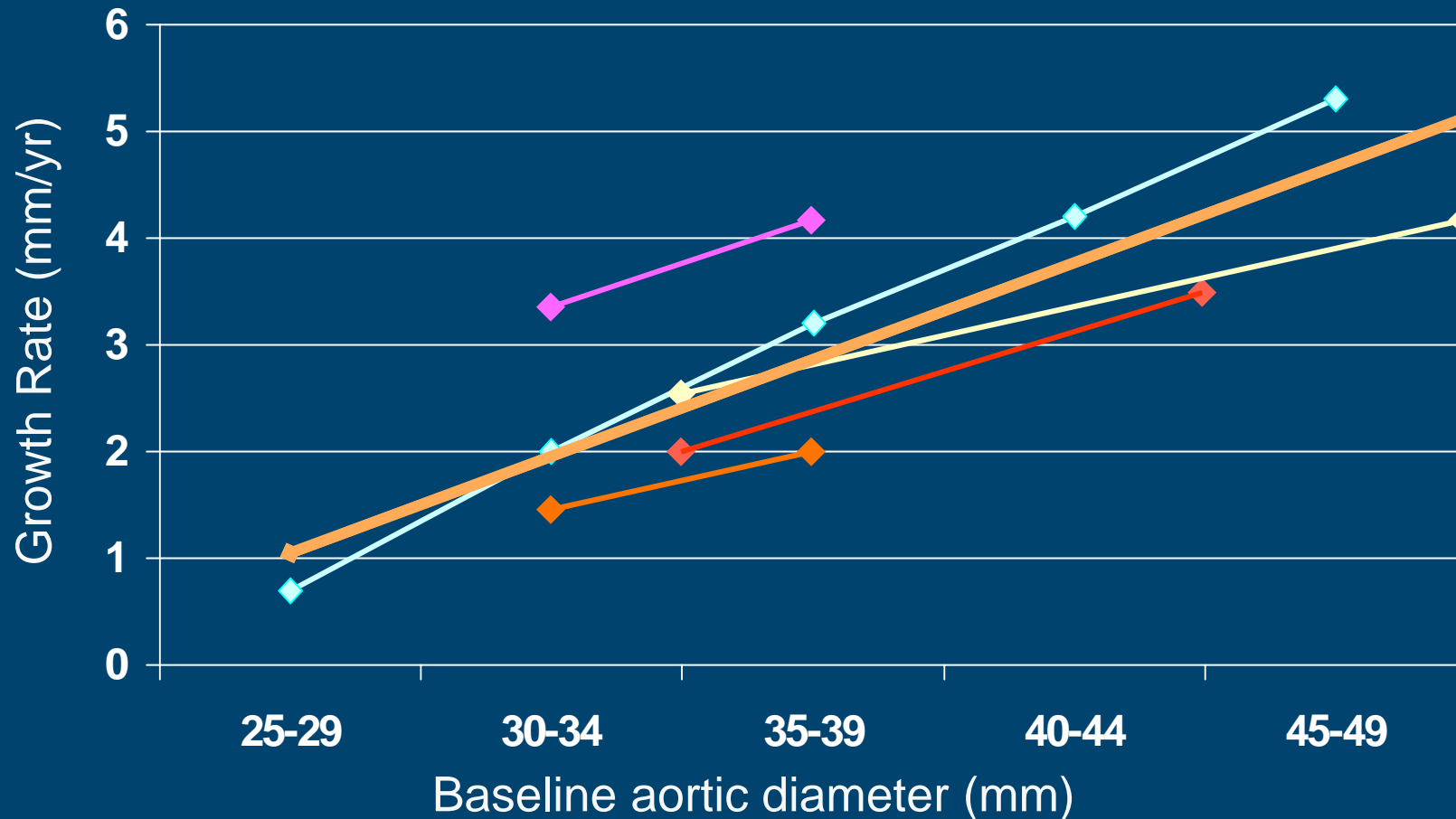


Mechanisms of AAA Formation and Growth

- Genetic
- Environmental
- Hemodynamic
- Immunological
 - Inflammatory infiltrates within the wall of AAAs
 - Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are enzymes produced by smooth muscle and inflammatory cells
 - Certain MMPs can degrade elastin and collagen
 - Levels of some matrix MMPs are significantly elevated in the walls of aneurysms compared with controls
 - So several MMPs are likely to participate in AAA formation.

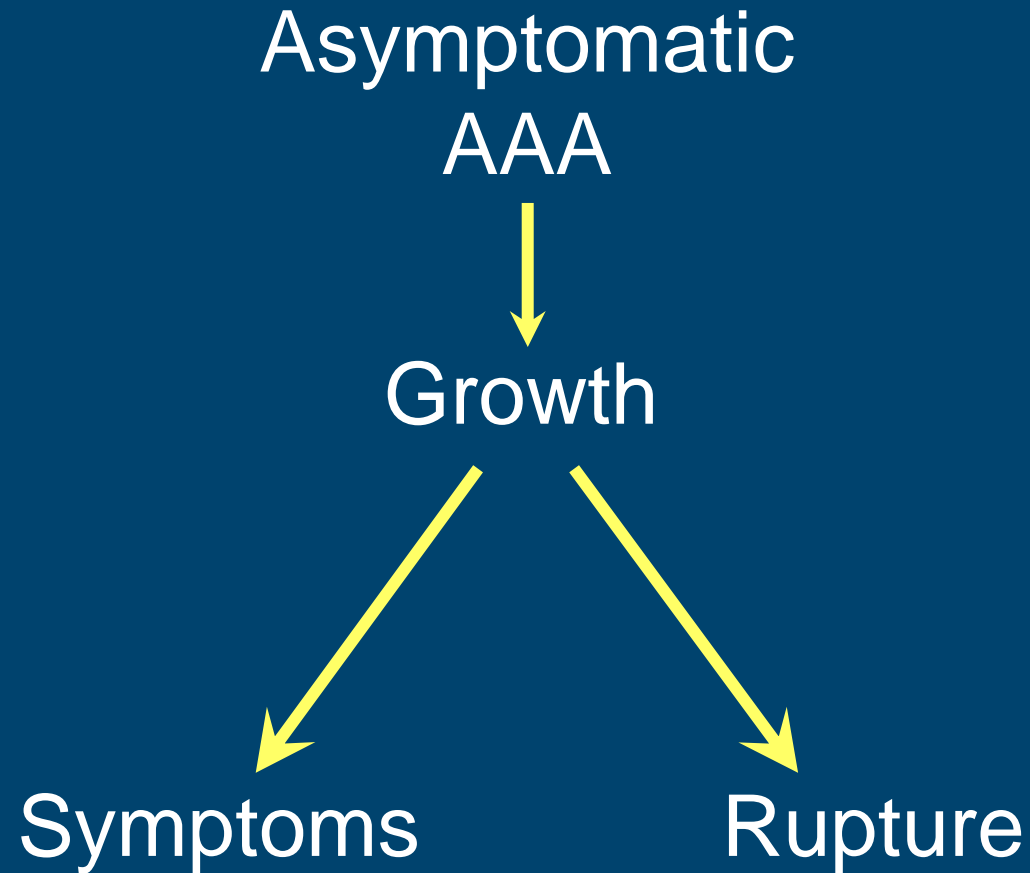


Growth Rate of Small AAAs vs. Baseline Size: *10% per year, but individuals' rates are extremely variable*

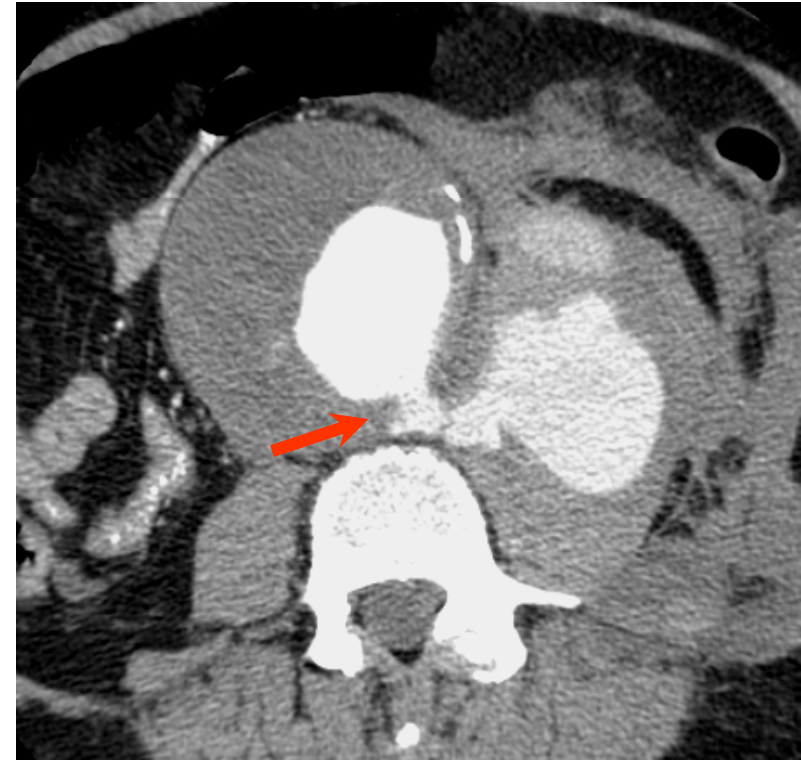
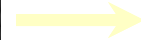
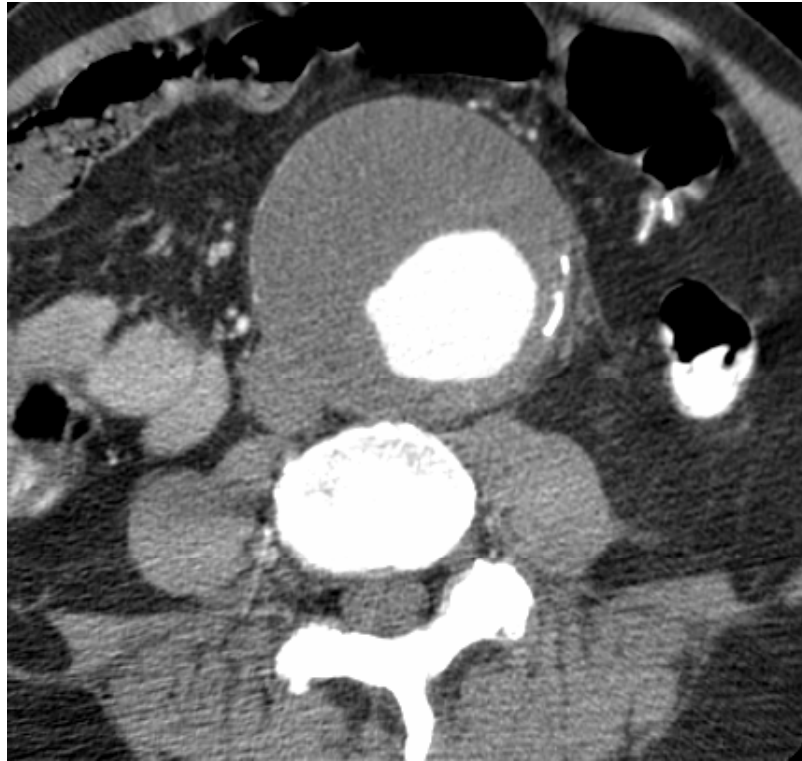


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Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: Natural History



AAA Rupture



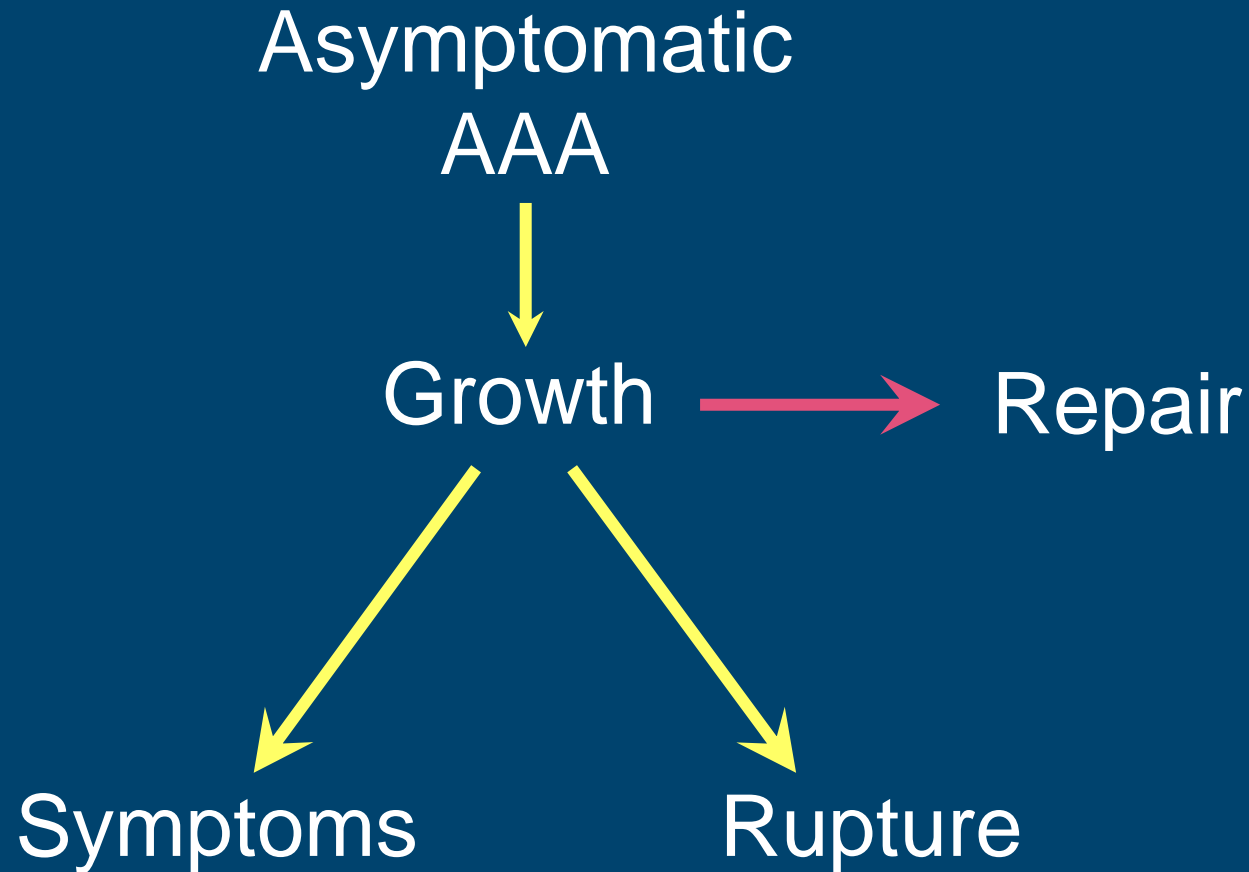
- Overall 30-day survival of 11%



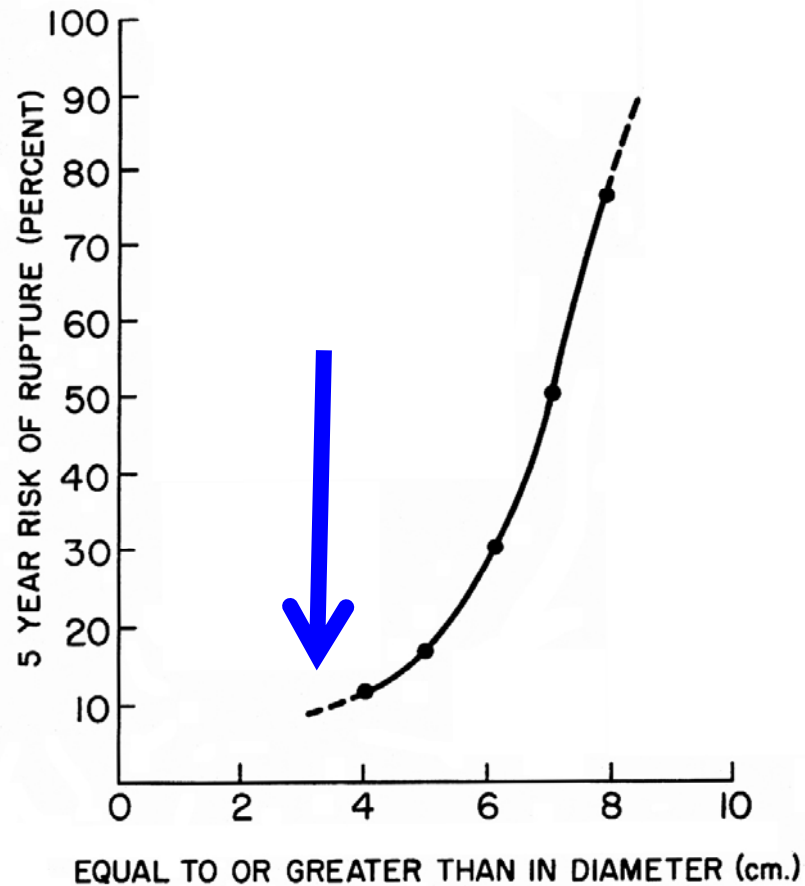
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Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: Natural History



AAA Size Predicts Risk of Rupture



- Risk rises sharply after diameter of 5 cm or larger
- Risk 5.0-5.9 cm = 11 % per year



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Can We Prevent Growth of Small AAAs?

Intervention	Reference(s)	Effect on AAA Growth	Level of Evidence	Class of Recommendation
Propranolol	46, 69	No inhibition	A	III
Macrolides	60	Inhibition	B	IIa
Tetracycline*	67	Inhibition	B	IIa
Statins	38, 39	Inhibition	B	IIb
ACE inhibitors	27, 39, 52, 53	No inhibition	B and C	IIb
AR blockers	48, 50	Animal data	C	IIb

Circulation 2008;117:1883

Tetracyclines????

- Known inhibitory effects on MMP
 - Suppress aortic wall MMP activity
 - Suppress elastin degradation
 - Prevent aneurysm formation in elastase-induced rat model

Circulation

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



Clinical Trial of Doxycycline for Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 Inhibition in Patients With an Abdominal Aneurysm : Doxycycline Selectively Depletes Aortic Wall Neutrophils and Cytotoxic T Cells

Jan H.N. Lindeman, Hazem Abdul-Hussien, J. Hajo van Bockel, Ron Wolterbeek and Robert Kleemann

Circulation 2009, 119:2209-2216: originally published online April 13, 2009
doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.108.806505



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Doxycycline in AAA

- 60 patients scheduled for open AAA repair
 - Randomized to two weeks of
 - Doxycycline 50 mg/100 mg/300 mg per day for 2 weeks pre-op OR
 - Placebo
- Aortic wall samples collected at time of surgery
- Assessed aortic wall inflammation

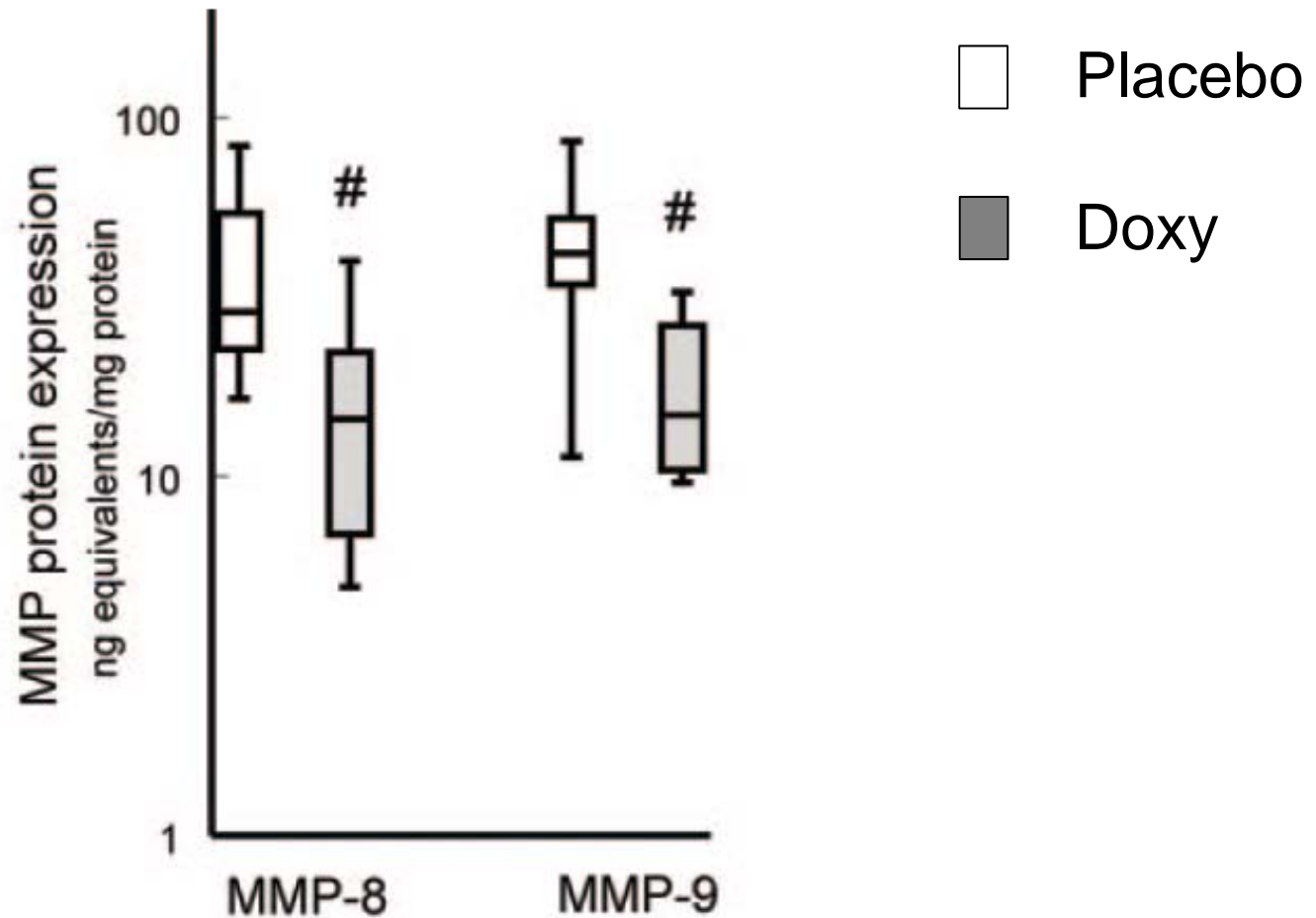
Circulation 2009;119:2209

Doxycycline in AAA

	Control AAA	Doxycycline, mg			<i>P</i>
		50	100	300	
Evaluable patients, n	15	13	15	15	NS
Mean age (range), y	74.8 (69–84)	72.7 (62–85)	74.1 (50–88)	72.1 (58–87)	NS
Mean AAA diameter, cm	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.7	NS
Mean time between diagnosis and surgery, mo	6	7	5	4	
Female sex, n	1	2	2	3	NS
Current smoker, n	6	6	7	5	NS
Statin use, n	1	1	1	2	NS
Antihypertensives, n	8	7	8	7	NS
Antiplatelet therapy, n	10	8	8	8	NS

Circulation 2009;119:2209

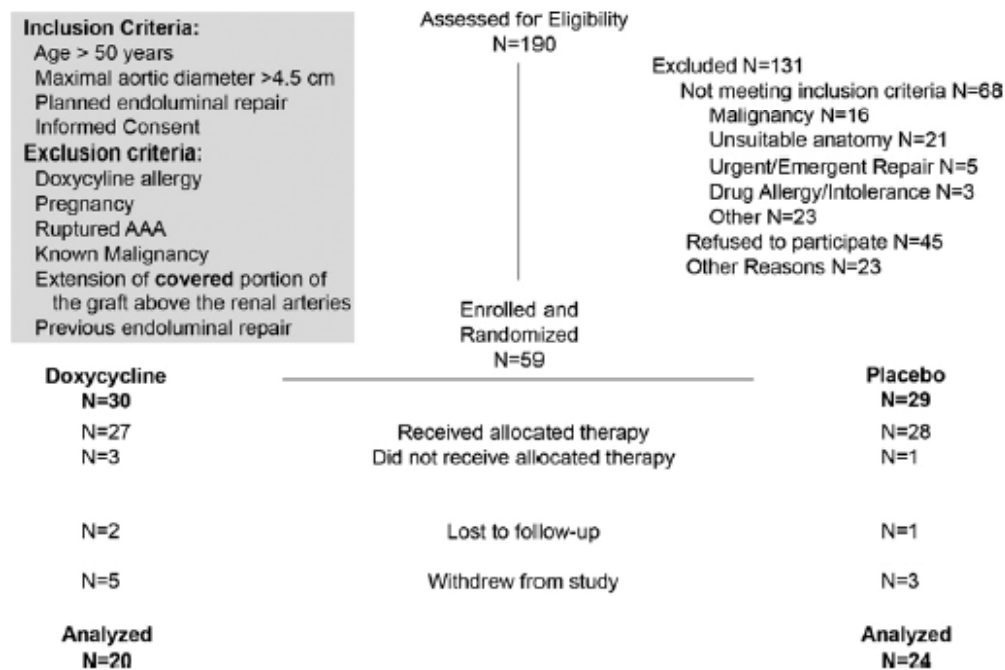
Doxycycline in AAA



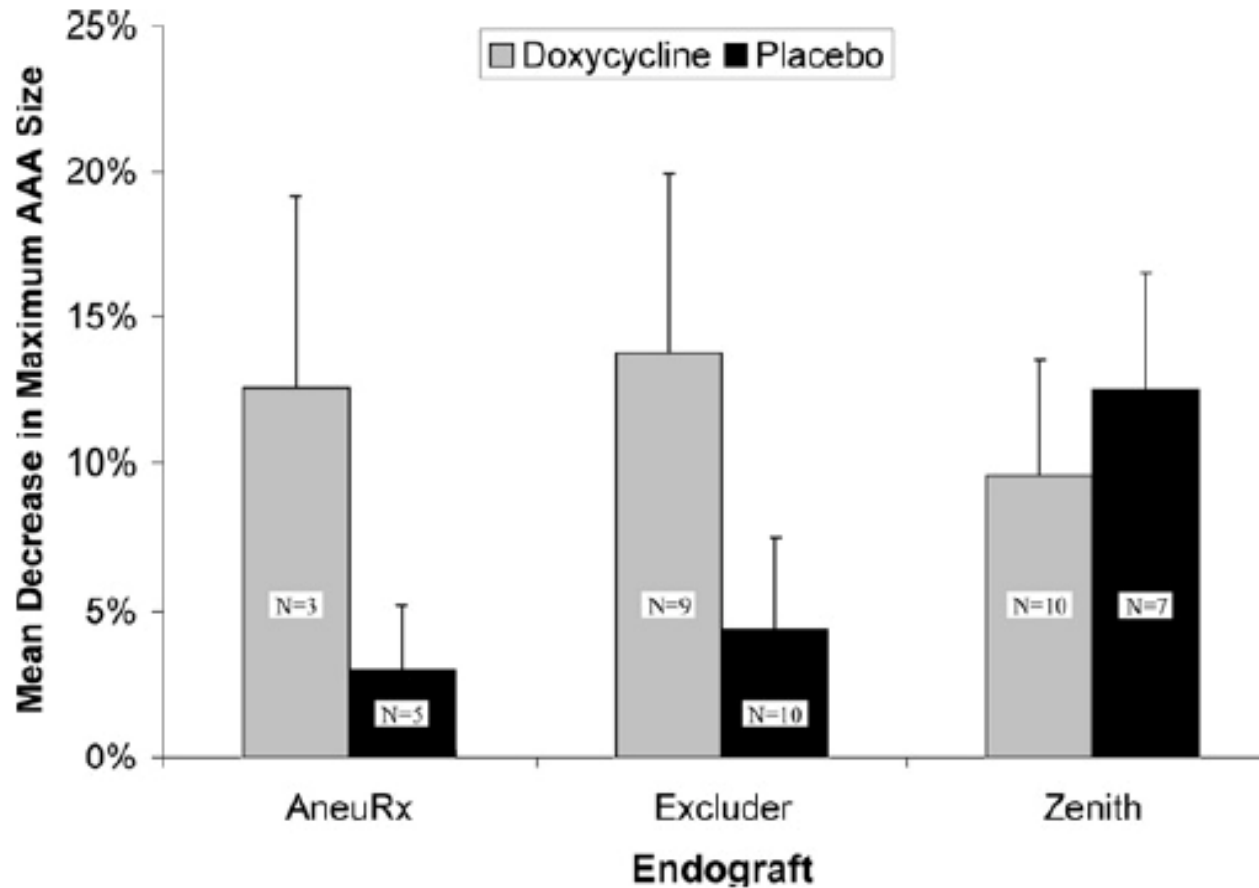
Circulation 2009;119:2209

Doxycycline After Aortic Endograft

- Randomized, placebo controlled trial
- Doxycycline 100 mg BID or placebo for 6 months following EVAR



Doxycycline After Aortic Endograft



Statin Therapy Induces Regression of Aneurysm Sac After EVAR

- Retrospective analysis of 166 patients who underwent successful EVAR
 - 120 were taking statins
 - 46 were not on statins

<i>Statins</i>	<i>No. (%)</i>
Fluvastatin	
80 mg	4 (3.3)
Simvastatin	
20 mg	19 (15.9)
40 mg	3 (2.5)
Atorvastatin	
10 mg	15 (12.5)
20 mg	12 (10)
40 mg	10 (8.3)
80 mg	1 (0.8)
Rosuvastatin	
5 mg	18 (15)
10 mg	12 (10)
Pravastatin	
10 mg	3 (2.5)
20 mg	17 (14.2)
40 mg	6 (5)

Statin Therapy Induces Regression of Aneurysm Sac After EVAR

Pre-Procedure Measurements

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Total, mm Mean ± SD mm</i>	<i>Nonstatin Mean ± SD mm</i>	<i>Statin Mean ± SD mm</i>	<i>P</i>
Max transverse diameter	53.15 ± 8.6	53.8 ± 10.6	52.9 ± 7.8	.54
Proximal neck				
Max diameter	23.5 ± 4.3	22.74 ± 4.9	23.8 ± 4.1	.24
Length	26.2 ± 12.9	27.4 ± 17.9	25.76 ± 10.4	.46
Max common iliac artery diameter	18.2 ± 9.1	18 ± 8.1	18.25 ± 9.5	.86

Statin Therapy Induces Regression of Aneurysm Sac After EVAR

Multivariate Analysis: Statin Use and Sac Measurements

<i>Variable</i>	<i>5-mm regression OR (95% CI)</i>	<i>10-mm regression OR (95% CI)</i>
Statin use	9.39 (3.45-25.56)	4.35 (1.99-9.5)
Max external diameter	1.08 (1.1-1.15)	1.07 (1.02-1.12)
Proximal neck		
Max diameter	0.97 (0.85-1.11)	0.94 (0.87-1.02)
Length	0.99 (0.95-1.02)	1.03 (1-1.06)
Max common iliac artery diameter	1.03 (0.96-1.11)	0.99 (0.95-1.03)

What is Medical Therapy in Small AAA?

- Tobacco Cessation
- Statins (potential role in AAA; useful in CAD)
- Beta Blockers (useful following MI; not useful in AAA)
- ARB (?)
- Tetracyclines (?)