

## Quick reference guide

# Endovascular stent-grafts for the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms

### Guidance

This guidance refers to the use of endovascular stent-grafts or open surgical repair only for the treatment of infra-renal abdominal aortic aneurysms. This guidance should be read in conjunction with 'Stent-graft placement in abdominal aortic aneurysm' (NICE interventional procedure guidance 163).

- 1 Endovascular stent-grafts are recommended as a treatment option for patients with unruptured infra-renal abdominal aortic aneurysms, for whom surgical intervention (open surgical repair or endovascular aneurysm repair) is considered appropriate.
- 2 The decision on whether endovascular aneurysm repair is preferred over open surgical repair should be made jointly by the patient and their clinician after assessment of a number of factors including:
  - aneurysm size and morphology
  - patient age, general life expectancy and fitness for open surgery
  - the short- and long-term benefits and risks of the procedures including aneurysm-related mortality and operative mortality.
- 3 Endovascular aneurysm repair should only be performed in specialist centres by clinical teams experienced in the management of abdominal aortic aneurysms. The teams should have appropriate expertise in all aspects of patient assessment and the use of endovascular aortic stent-grafts.
- 4 Endovascular aortic stent-grafts are not recommended for patients with ruptured aneurysms except in the context of research. Given the difficulties of conducting randomised controlled trials, it is recommended that data should be collected through existing registries to enable further research.

### Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website ([www.nice.org.uk/TA167](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA167)).

- A costing statement explaining the resource impact of this guidance.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

### Further information

#### Ordering information

You can download the following documents from [www.nice.org.uk/TA167](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA167)

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email [publications@nice.org.uk](mailto:publications@nice.org.uk) and quote:

- N1802 (quick reference guide)
- N1803 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

## NICE technology appraisal guidance 167

The guidance was developed using the NICE multiple technology appraisal process.

NICE technology appraisal guidance is about the use of new and existing medicines and treatments in the NHS in England and Wales.

## Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

### Published

- Laparoscopic repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms. NICE interventional procedure guidance 229 (2007). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG229](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG229)
- Stent-graft placement in abdominal aortic aneurysm. NICE interventional procedure guidance 163 (2006). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG163](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG163)

## Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in January 2012. Information about the progress of a review will be available at [www.nice.org.uk/TA167](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA167)

This guidance represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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