**WHAT IS THE PROGRESS WITH TREATMENTS FOR SMALL ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSMS?**

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Previous trials suggest that surgical management of small abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA; i.e. those measuring <55mm in maximum diameter) does not reduce mortality. Up to 70% of small AAAs managed conservatively continue to grow once identified and eventually require surgical treatment. Currently there are no recognised non-interventional treatments which have been shown to effectively limit AAA growth. A large number of studies have now been performed in rodent models to identify pathways which appear important in AAA pathogenesis, in particular those involved in inflammation, extracellular matrix remodelling and vascular smooth muscle cell phenotype. Translating these findings into safe and effective drugs for patients is however not proving straight forward. Some of the challenges of clinical trials designed to identify treatments for small AAAs include the small change in AAA size over follow-up, the loss of patients to surgical intervention and the frequent presence of co-morbidities in AAA patients. Recently two moderately-sized clinical trials have reported negative results illustrating some of these challenges. A further group of trials are currently on-going and expected to report over the next 1-5 years. It is hoped that these studies will identify new and safe treatment options for small AAAs.