Open Aneurysm Repair

Open repair of an aneurysm involves an incision. The aneurysm will be repaired by the use of a long cylinder-like tube called a graft. The graft is sutured to the aorta connecting one end of the aorta at the site of the aneurysm to the other end of the aorta.

Activity
• You may resume normal daily activity
• No strenuous activity or lifting of heavy objects until you are cleared by your surgeon.
• Do not drive until cleared by your surgeon.
• You may shower 72 hours after the procedure. No tub baths or swimming until the incision is completely healed (approx. 2 weeks).

Care for Your Incision
• These incisions are closed with sutures or staples.
• These incisions are closed with dissolvable sutures. The skin is then closed with steri strips, pieces of paper tape. The steri strips should fall off in 7 days. If they do not fall off you may remove them after 7 days.
• You may remove the dressing after 72 hours.
• It is normal for the incisions to be slightly tender, pink and bruised. If you notice increased tenderness, warmth, redness or drainage of pus you should notify your surgeon's office.

Pain
• You will be given pain medication
• Pain medication can cause constipation. In addition to increasing the amount of water that you drink, over the counter medication can be used (Colace, Milk of Magnesia, Dulcolax)

Fever
• You may experience a low-grade fever 7 – 10 days after your procedure. If the fever is higher than 101.5 F, you should contact your surgeon’s office.

Preventative Antibiotics
• Please notify your dentist and primary care physician that you have a graft in place. A preventive dose of antibiotics prior to dental work and other invasive procedures is recommended to prevent the graft from potentially becoming infected.

When to Call Your Physician
• Fevers greater than 101.5 F or chills
• Redness, increased swelling, tenderness or drainage of pus from incision
• Severe or unusual leg pain, numbness, coldness, or weakness
• Severe or unusual abdominal or back pain
For questions, please call The Center for Vascular Diseases (508)673-4329