

PS1.020

Aortic abdominal aneurysm screening in primary care: prevalence and diagnostic concordance

R Maroto Salmon(1), Laura Bravo Merino(1), A Fañanás Mastral(2), N González Lozano(2), G Meijide Santos(2)

(1) C.S. La Calzada, Spain

(2) C.S. El Coto, Spain

Corresponding author: Dr Laura Bravo Merino, C.S. La Calzada, Primary Care, Gijón, Spain. E-mail: laubramer@gmail.com

Background and Aim: Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm (AAA) is an abnormal enlargement of infrarenal aorta with a diameter equal to or larger than 3 cm. AAAs are usually asymptomatic until they expand and rupture.

Abdominal ultrasound scan is a sensible, specific and profitable method to diagnose the condition which allows to schedule AAA surgery resulting in less morbidity and mortality.

Our aim is to know the prevalence of AAA in a Spanish male population aged 65 to 75 and to establish the diagnostic concordance between General Practitioners (GPs) and Vascular surgeons (VS) using abdominal ultrasound.

Method: A cross-sectional population-based study was carried out on 304 out of 407 men aged 65 to 75 randomly selected, invited for ultrasound scan screening of aorta.

Each patient was requested for a clinical interview and an abdominal ultrasound exam.

All the patients with aneurysm suspect and a sample of 20% of the patients with a normal exam were referred to a second ultrasound in the Vascular Surgery Department to show the concordance of the ultrasound between GPs and Vascular surgeons (Gold Standard). A Kappa coefficient was used to establish the diagnostic concordance.

Results: GPs screening diagnosed AAA suspect in 13 patients. All of them were confirmed by ultrasound scan performed at the Vascular Surgery Department. VS also confirmed negative the study held by GPs in another 63 patients (20% out of 287). This study reveals a sensibility of 100% 95%CI(75.29%-100%) and a specificity of 100% 95%CI(94.31%-100%). The agreement between GPs and VS was perfect (kappa = 1).

Conclusions: Search of AAA through abdominal ultrasound in the primary care setting is highly effective with a GPs' short training. We believe that ultrasound screening should be implemented in Primary Care for the early detection and proper treatment of our patients at risk of suffering AAA.