

T080 Abdominal Aortic and Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Protocol

Aneurysms often don't cause signs or symptoms until they rupture or grow large enough to press on nearby body parts, or block blood flow.

EMT	AEMT
EMT-I	Paramedic

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA)

Symptoms include:

- A throbbing feeling in the abdomen
- Deep pain in the back or the side of the abdomen
- Steady, gnawing pain in the abdomen that lasts for hours or days

If an AAA ruptures, **symptoms** may include sudden, severe pain in your lower abdomen and back; nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) and vomiting; constipation and problems with urination; clammy, sweaty skin; light-headedness; and a rapid heart rate when standing up.

Internal bleeding from a ruptured AAA can send the pt into [shock](#).

Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms (TAA)

Symptoms include:

- Pain in your jaw, neck, back, or chest
- [Coughing](#) and/or hoarseness
- Shortness of breath and/or trouble breathing or swallowing

If a TAA ruptures sudden, severe, sharp or stabbing pain starting in the upper back and moving down into the abdomen. Pain in the chest and arms may be felt. The Pt can quickly go into shock.

In STABLE patients

- Ensure adequate airway and breathing
- Provide oxygen via a nonrebreather mask
- Place 2 large-bore intravenous lines
- Provide continuous cardiac monitoring

For UNSTABLE patients

- Airway protection
- Mechanical Ventilation
- Aggressive fluid resuscitation
- Contact with the receiving hospital