

NEWS RELEASE

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AKRON'S FIRST ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM STENT GRAFT WILL BE PERFORMED AT SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM



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Vascular surgeon Joseph R. McShannic, M.D., will perform Akron's first abdominal aortic stent graft in February at Summa Health System's Akron City Hospital, using Guidant Corporation's ANCURE System, which received FDA approval on September 28, 1999.

"Aortic stent grafts are one of the hottest new techniques in vascular surgery today," said Duane Donovan, M.D., chair of the department of surgery at Summa. "Traditionally, intervention for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAAs) is of the magnitude of a coronary bypass. This technology brings with it multiple benefits."

"This surgical intervention, insertion of an aortic stent graft, is still major surgery," said Dr. McShannic, who is fellowship trained in this procedure. "However, it offers two major advantages. The biggest advantage is a decreased hospital stay for patients - from five to seven nights, to just one night. We will also be able to treat people who would not have done well with traditional surgery, or people who may not even have been candidates for surgery."

"With aortic stent grafts, two three-inch incisions are made in the groin area," said Dr. McShannic. "Then we go in through the groin and the custom-sized grafts are delivered through a catheter. Then the graft is deployed and expanded, allowing metal hooks on each end of the device to secure the device." Because the procedure is less invasive, patients are often discharged in one to three days. Within one to two weeks, most patients resume normal activity levels."

Traditional surgery to correct an AAA requires a 15-inch incision in the abdomen to access the aorta. Then, a stent is sewn into this main artery. A patient would typically require time in an intensive care unit and an overall hospital stay of five to seven days. Recovery could take up to six weeks.