



Cardiothoracic and
Vascular Surgeons

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**CARDIOTHORACIC AND VASCULAR SURGEONS FIRST IN TEXAS TO
START CLINICAL STUDY OF ENDURANT EVO AAA STENT GRAFT
SYSTEM FOR ENDOVASCULAR TREATMENT OF ABDOMINAL
AORTIC ANEURYSMS**

**Surgeons Perform First Implant of Investigational Medical Device Designed to Expand
Applicability of Minimally Invasive Alternative to Open Surgical Repair**

August 4, 2015 – Austin, Texas – Vascular surgeons with Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons (CTVS) are the first in Texas to implant an Endurant Evo AAA stent graft system. CTVS is the third site to enroll patients in the United States and the only one in Texas that was chosen to participate in a clinical study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the Endurant Evo AAA stent graft, an investigational medical device designed to expand the applicability of a minimally invasive alternative to open surgical repair for the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Based on the market-leading Endurant platform, the Endurant Evo AAA stent graft system features an evolved design that aims to simplify the implant procedure and increase patient customization options. In addition, it includes the following design features:

- A 3 French reduction in profile facilitates vascular access
- In-situ sizing with a three-piece system and adjustable limb length simplifies pre-case planning and reduces inventory
- An enhanced delivery system eliminates the tip-recapture step and incorporates an integrated flush port for contrast injection
- Smaller leg diameters and helical limb stents expand patient applicability in tight distal aortas and tortuous iliac arteries
- Multiple aortic body lengths and a larger range of limb lengths and diameters improve patient customization.

“The design of his technology allows us to treat aneurysms with smaller access points and sheath sizes,” said Dr. Stephen Settle, local principal investigator.

The study will enroll 140 patients with infrarenal abdominal aortic or aortoiliac aneurysms at sites throughout the United States and Europe. All study patients will be treated with the Endurant Evo AAA stent graft system.

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ABOUT ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSMS

An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a localized bulge in the wall of the aorta, the body's largest artery, where it traverses the abdomen. The condition occurs mostly in older people and more commonly in men than women. It is present in approximately 1.2 million people in the United States alone, but often goes undiagnosed due to lack of symptoms.

Undetected or untreated, AAAs can expand and eventually rupture, an emergency situation involving extensive internal bleeding that usually results in death. They are responsible for approximately 15,000 deaths annually in the United States. Ruptured AAAs are the country's third leading cause of sudden death in men over age 60.

Risk factors for an AAA include advanced age, male gender, hypertension, high cholesterol, smoking (past or present), atherosclerosis, and a family history of AAA. People with multiple risk factors should ask their doctor about an abdominal ultrasound screening, which is a quick, easy, inexpensive and noninvasive imaging technique that can be used to determine the presence and size of an AAA.

AAAs are among the most preventable causes of death because they are highly treatable. Treatment options include open surgical repair and endovascular repair.

Open surgical repair requires an incision from the bottom of the breastbone to the top of the pelvic bone to expose the aneurysm. The surgery replaces the aneurysmal segment of the aorta with a fabric tube, or graft, which is sewn into place to restore blood flow.

Endovascular repair involves a keyhole procedure in which a stent graft -- a wire frame (stent) attached to a fabric tube (graft) -- is delivered in a compressed state through a catheter, which is inserted into an artery in the upper leg and navigated to the site of the aneurysm, where it is deployed from inside the aorta. The stent graft creates a new path for blood flow, reducing pressure on the aneurysm and the risk of rupture.

About Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons

For over five decades, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons (CTVS) has been proud to offer Central Texas the most specialized and innovative cardiothoracic, vascular, and pediatric surgical care available. The most sophisticated diagnostic and surgical techniques are provided by more than 20 CTVS surgeons from offices in Central Austin, Williamson County, Hays County, and all area hospitals. Individually and collectively, CTVS surgeons have amassed a record of medical "firsts" in Central Texas, including performing the first heart and kidney transplants in the area. Since 1958, the surgeons along with the clinical team of physician assistants, nurses, and technicians, have shared a commitment to patients, their health and the community. To learn more about Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons, please call 512-459-8753 or visit us online at www.ctvstexas.com.