

# Total, open repairs decline for abdominal aortic aneurysms

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(HealthDay)—The number of open abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)

repairs dropped by almost 80 percent during the last decade, according to a study published in the June issue of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*.

Bjoern D. Suckow, M.D., from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., and colleagues used Medicare Part B claims to analyze trends in open AAA [repair](#), endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR), and branched-fenestrated EVAR for AAA among Medicare beneficiaries from 2003 to 2013.

The researchers found that after a peak number of 32,540 was performed in 2005, the total number of AAA repairs performed in fee-for-service Medicare patients declined by 26 percent from 31,582 to 23,421 (P

"These results suggest that open AAA repair is now performed too infrequently to be used as a metric in the assessment of hospital and surgeon quality in cardiovascular care," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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