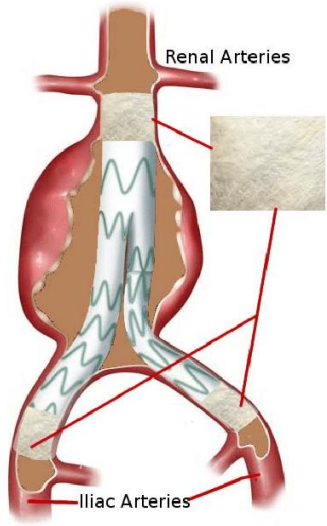
Endo-Vascular Aneurysm Repair (EVAR) ultrasound scan

What is it?

An EVAR is a stent which has been used to repair your abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). In this operation the aneurysm is not removed; a stent is placed inside the aorta. Blood flows through the stent and not through the old aneurysm sack. The stent is sometimes referred to as a trouser graft because it can look like a pair of trousers where is supplies each limb (see image below).



Why am I having this test?

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Although EVAR is a successful operation for treating AAA's, sometimes complications can occur which may need further interventions. Complications include movement of the stent, blood vessels entering the stent and stent damage. We will keep an eye on your EVAR annually to ensure we pick up any problems. Follow up imaging of your EVAR is done by a combination of ultrasound, x-ray and CT.

How is the EVAR ultrasound performed?

The ultrasound scan of your stent may be called a duplex scan or Doppler. This test will produce images of your EVAR stent and the blood flow within it. During the scan the clinical scientist (who may be male or female) will monitor the size of the remaining aneurysm sac (to make sure its not getting bigger) and to ensure there is no blood entering the sac. You will be asked to lie on your back and gel will be applied to the abdomen area and towards each groin. The lights will be dimmed to help see the screen better. Some pressure may be applied to help see the stent. There are no risk associated with the ultrasound scan. The scan may take 30-45 minutes.

What happens next?

The clinical scientist will comment on the findings and will write a report for vascular surgery. After the scan you will go for an x-ray (round in radiology). We will give you a referral form to take around with you. We will see you annually to monitor the stent. In come cases, the clinical scientist may need to discuss the result with a doctor before you leave.