## VASCULAR DISEASE

## **ARE YOU AT RISK?**

Are you age 50 or older?
Are you or were you a smoker?
Do you have high blood pressure?
Do you have high cholesterol?
Has a family member had AAA?
Have you previously had heart bypass surgery?

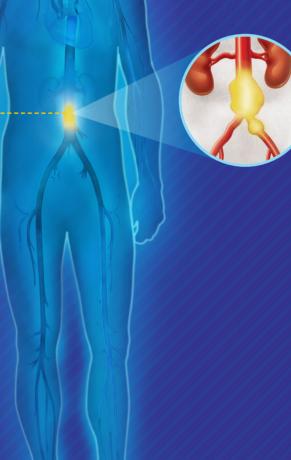
## ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA)

Occurs when a weak area of the abdominal aorta fills up with blood, causing it to bulge (aneurysm). Over time, this area can further weaken and burst, leading to massive internal bleeding and, in some cases, sudden death.

## **WARNING SIGNS**

Most people with AAA do not experience symptoms. People who do experience symptoms describe them as:

- A pulsing feeling in the abdomen
- Unexplained, severe pain in lower back
- Tenderness in chest
- Nausea
- Feeling of being constantly full in stomach





Educational material provided courtesy of Medtronic, I