

September 2016

OxAAA Update

OxAAA Survey, Awareness Day and beyond!

Thank you to all who have completed the OxAAA Survey. It has enabled us to not only ensure patients are happy with the care they receive, but also to help us take AAA research in new and exciting directions. A summary of some of the findings is overleaf.

The OxAAA Study is growing fast, as such you might notice that we may not ask to see you for a study appointment at each of your clinical scan visits. Rest assured you remain one of our participants, and very much a valued part of the OxAAA Study.

The OxAAA Study team would like to thank you all again for your continued participation in the study. Your contribution to AAA research so far has been invaluable.



It was delightful to see so many of you at the OxAAA Aneurysm Awareness Day- thank you for helping make it such a great success!

The John Radcliffe Hospital welcomed over 100 people affected by abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) into a lively and engaging morning of talks delivered by experts covering a variety of topics: including an informative update on the research being carried out by the OxAAA team from Dr Regent Lee,

explaining some of the findings so far and giving us a chance to collect feedback on the event from participants on the day.

An animated and frank Q&A session, chaired by Prof. Handa, gave attendees a chance to put questions to the speakers on the topics covered that morning.



The afternoon allowed the attendees to explore a series of interactive clinical stations, get their blood pressure checked, talk with the specialist vascular nurses about ward-related care and decreasing their risk of AAA, and to watch demonstration ultrasound scans from the other side of the screen. There were also chances to talk to the surgical teams, look at sample grafts and instruments used in AAA surgery.

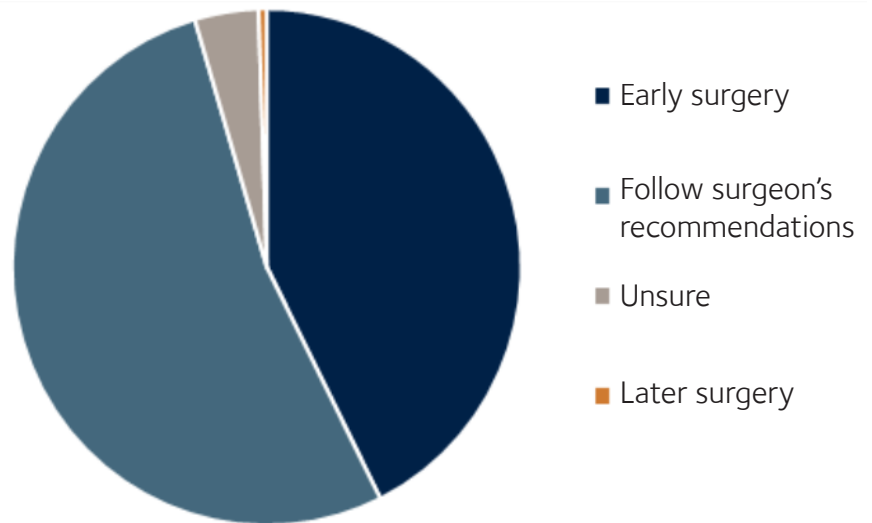
Many of the attendees felt reassured and encouraged by the talks, with 100% reporting that they felt the event had increased their overall understanding of AAAs. Nearly 70% offered to be 'champions' in their community – raising the profile of the OxAAA study with their friends, family, GP and healthcare teams and wanting to take part in future events to help the OxAAA team direct and focus their research in areas that are most relevant to improving the lives of patients.

PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

OxAAA Survey: results so far

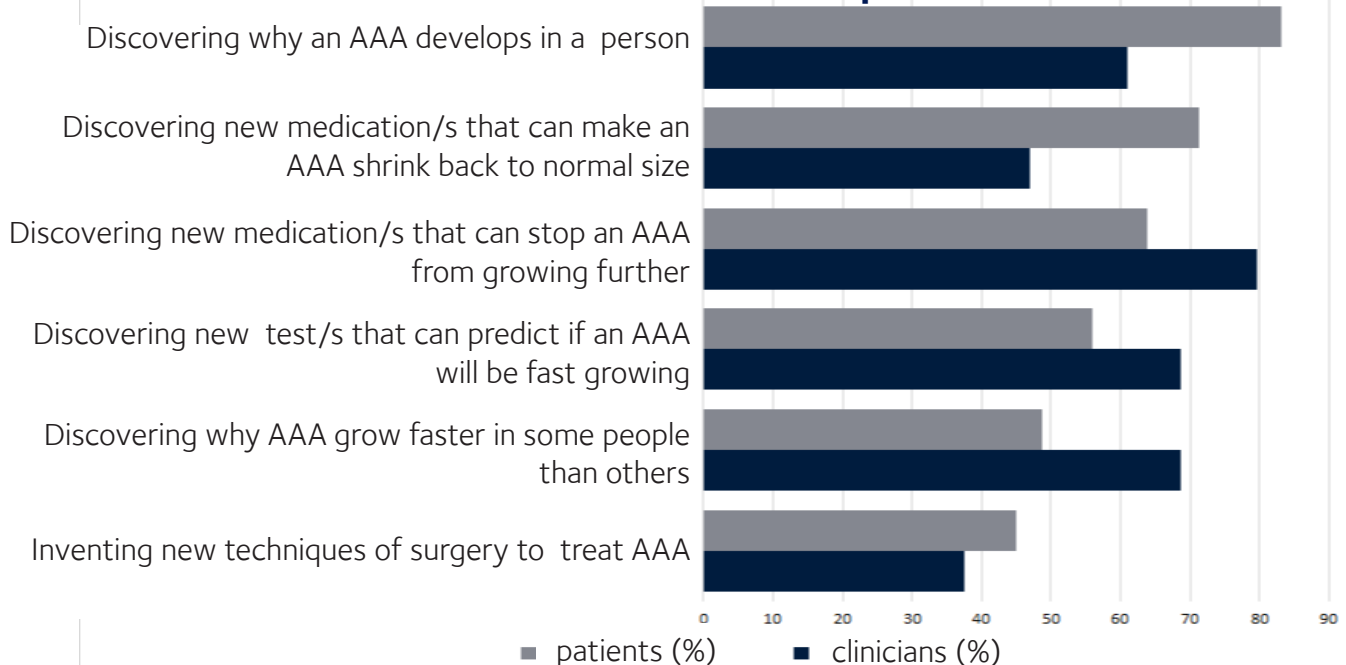
You might recall receiving a copy of the OxAAA Survey through the post in the last few months, or perhaps picking one up at a visit to the Jackie Walton Vascular Studies Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

So far we have had an overwhelming response to the OxAAA Survey from patients, their families, and clinicians within Oxford. We have had over 250 responses so far! We received many favourable comments regarding your care and treatment during AAA monitoring and for those who received surgery. Here is a brief summary of the results so far!



In a hypothetical situation of being diagnosed with a “small” 4cm AAA, having the option of surgery, early, later, or following their surgeon’s advice, almost HALF of the OxAAA Survey respondents would want surgery earlier rather than later.

When asked about their top priorities for research into AAAs, there was clear concordance with clinicians’ and patients’ views.



Most patients surveyed would like more research into why AAAs develop in some people and not others. *Both* clinicians and patients felt that it was very important to try to find new medications that might stop or reverse AAA growth.

If you have yet to take the survey, do it online!

<http://tinyurl.com/OxAAASurvey2016>