Elective repair of infra-renal abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)

AAA is an abnormal expansion of the aorta. If left untreated, it may enlarge and rupture causing fatal internal bleeding. An infra-renal aneurysm occurs below the level of the renal (kidney) arteries within the aorta.

There were 4,153 elective infra-renal AAA repairs submitted to the NVR in 2016, which is approximately 86% of all procedures carried out in the UK.

Which people had surgery?

- **89%** were male
- **86%** were older than 65 years
- **71%** had hypertension
- **84%** were a current or ex-smoker

How were patients assessed?

- Discussed at multi-disciplinary team meeting **78%**
- Had pre-operative angiography assessment **85%**
- Had formal anaesthetic review **97%**
- Of these had review by consultant vascular anaesthetist **92%**
- Had fitness measured **84%**

Most patients waited 70 days between vascular assessment and AAA repair.

However for 14/72 vascular units, 19% of patients waited more than 140 days.

Patient outcomes after surgery

- **2.9%** died in hospital
- **8 days (6-10 days)** were readmitted within 30 days
- **6.1%** died in hospital
- **3 days (2-4 days)** were readmitted within 30 days
- **0.4%** died in hospital
- **5.8%** were readmitted within 30 days

The average is the median; "typically between" is the interquartile range.