

Ascending aorta and aortic arch surgery

The aortic aneurysm is a normal, localised dilatation of the aortic artery that puts the patient in danger of vascular wall rupture, a very serious complication. Depending on the location of the disease, the aneurysm can be located in the ascending aorta, the aortic arch, the descending thoracic aorta, the abdominal aorta or a combination thereof. It is important to know that, once it appears, the aortic aneurysm continues to grow and that the larger the aneurysm the higher the growth rate. Moreover, the majority of patients with aortic aneurysm die from the rupture of the untreated aneurysm; usually the treatment involves surgery.

The ascending aorta aneurysm is treated by replacing the dilated arterial segment with a synthetic prosthesis. Depending on the extent of the aneurysm, it can affect the aortic root and the aortic valve, on the one hand, and it can affect the aortic arch (aneurysmal dilatation) on the other hand. In these cases the repair, or the replacement (when it cannot be repaired) of the aortic valve is sometimes necessary. So is the reconstruction of the origin of the coronary arteries (implanting them in the synthetic prosthesis that replaces the ascending aorta) and/or the partial or complete replacement of the aortic arch.

The aortic arch aneurysm (that is rarely isolated) is also treated by replacing this aortic segment with a synthetic prosthesis. The particularity of this type of surgery is represented by the necessity to implant in the aortic prosthesis, the arteries that irrigate the head and the upper limbs with blood.

The Clinico surgical team has a very rich experience in thoracic aorta surgery, due to the fact that it performs these types of surgeries, some of which are extremely laborious and extensive, often and with very good results and with a very low mortality and morbidity rate.