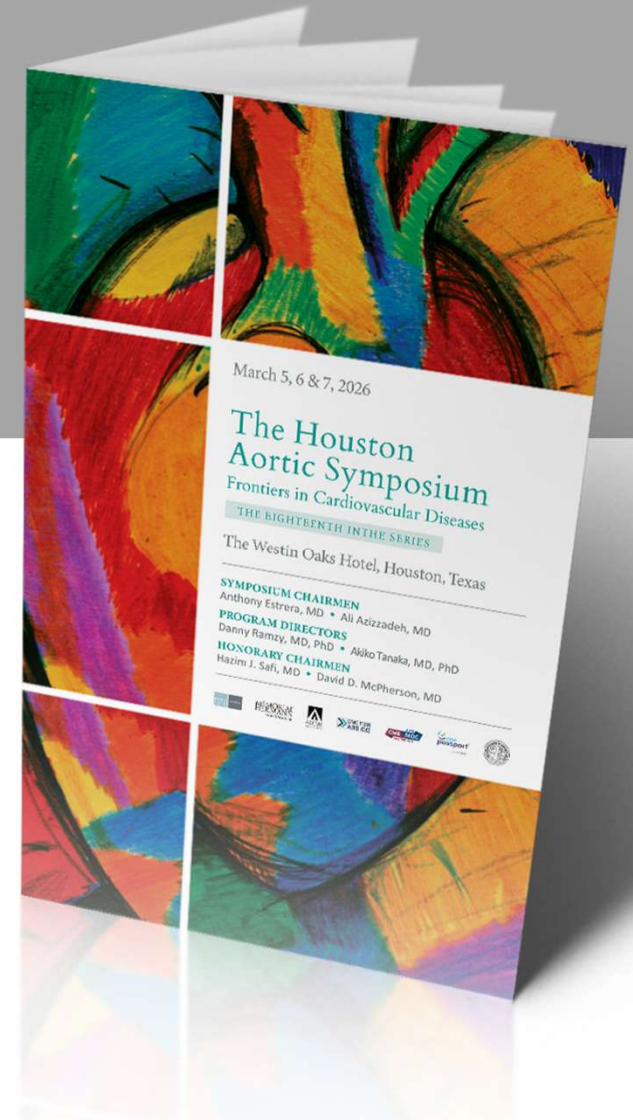


# Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm

**Hazim J. Safi, MD**  
Chief of Aortic Surgery

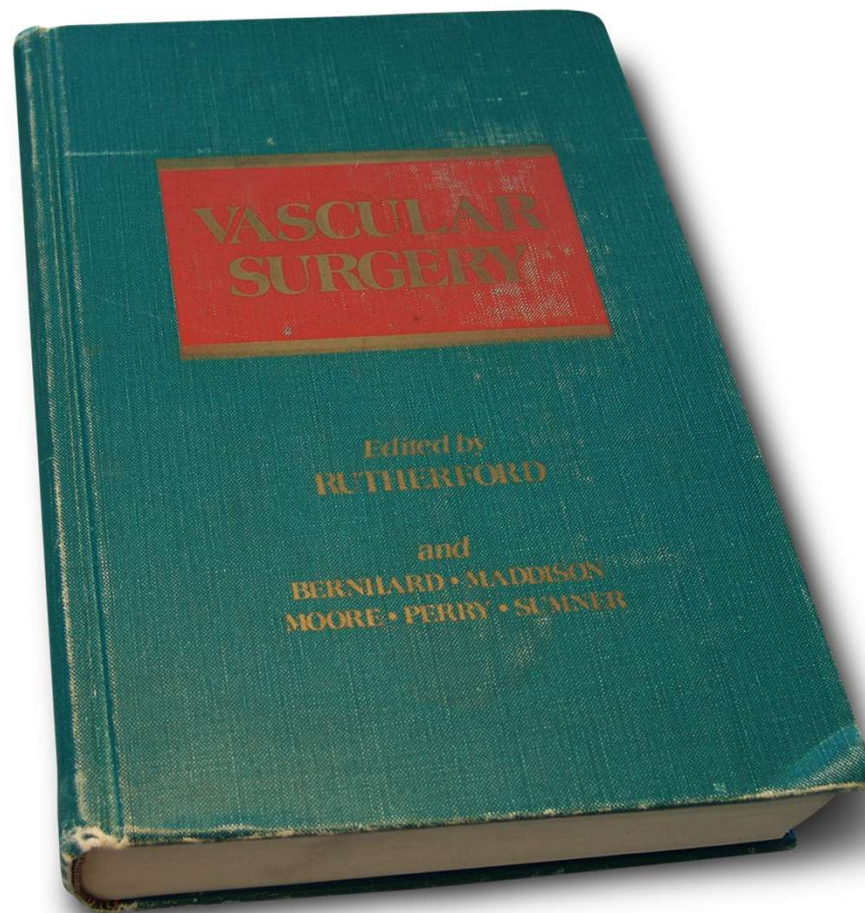
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aneurysm than when it bypasses occlusive disease, and is probably 5 per cent or less over a ten-year follow-up period. Conversely, anastomotic aneurysms are more common when aortofemoral bypass is done for aneurysmal disease than when it is done for occlusive disease. The total late failure rate, including late graft occlusion, recurrent (anastomotic) aneurysm, and aortoenteric fistula, probably is well under 10 per cent now that porous, compliant, knitted Dacron prostheses and stronger synthetic suture materials are being used routinely by most vascular surgeons. The management of the latter two complications is dealt with in Chapters 79 and 80, respectively.

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## THE MANAGEMENT OF THORACOABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSMS

H. EDWARD GARRETT, M.D.

Aneurysmal involvement of the upper abdominal aorta and its major visceral branches may represent simply a more proximal than usual extension of a primarily infrarenal process. Alternatively, in approximately 50 per cent of cases, it also may involve the lower descending thoracic aorta and constitute a true thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm. As a group, these aneurysms present a very serious challenge to the surgeon in terms of successful operative management, but they may be resected successfully with graft replacement in most instances.

The major problems encountered in operative management of thoracoabdominal aneurysms relate to the magnitude of the operative procedure, usually requiring entry into both abdomen and thorax; massive blood transfusions; temporary interruption of arterial blood supply to vital organs supplied by the celiac, superior mesenteric, and renal arteries; and the risk of ischemia of the spinal cord, which may result from interruption of upper lumbar or lower intercostal arteries.

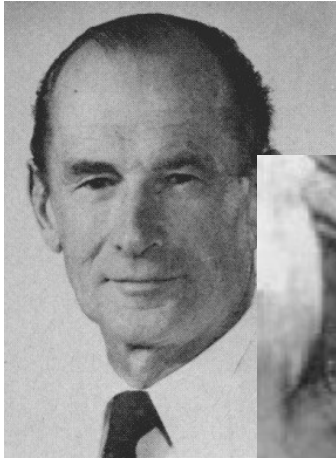
Aneurysms arising in the upper abdominal aorta and lower descending thoracic aorta may be classified according to etiology, extent of the lesion, or underlying pathologic process. They may be atherosclerotic, dissecting, syphilitic, traumatic, or mycotic, or may result from weakness or absence of elastic tissue in the aortic wall on a congenital or

inflammatory basis. They may be fusiform and extensive, or saciform and localized. However, at least 75 per cent of those encountered in Western populations appear to be atherosclerotic in origin and fusiform in type.

Aneurysms of the upper abdominal aorta are subject to all the complications described for infrarenal aortic aneurysms, namely, expansion and rupture, compression or erosion of adjacent organs, spine, or body wall with symptoms produced according to location and extent of the lesion. The likelihood of serious symptomatic presentation increases with size, and associated hypertension increases the risk of rapid progression of the lesion. Peripheral emboli and stenosis or thrombosis of visceral artery branches also may occur. The relative incidence of the above problems is not well established owing to the lack of large reported series of these rare aneurysms.

## DIAGNOSIS

Any pulsatile mass palpable in the epigastrium or upper abdomen may represent an aneurysm of the upper abdominal aorta. Plain x-rays frequently reveal calcification in the wall of the aneurysm, and may provide some indication of the location of the lesion. Sonography also may be helpful (see Chapter 76), but arteriography, including *oblique* and *lateral* views, usually is necessary to



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**THERAPY OF THE ABDOMINAL AORTA AND ITS MAJOR BRANCHES**

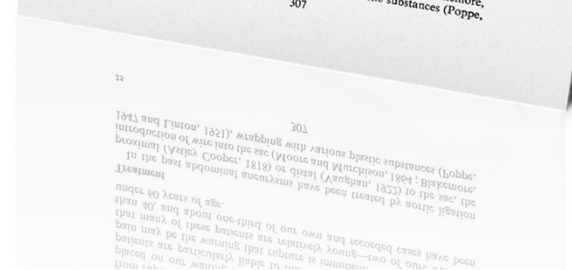
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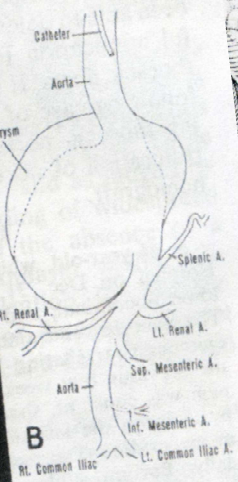
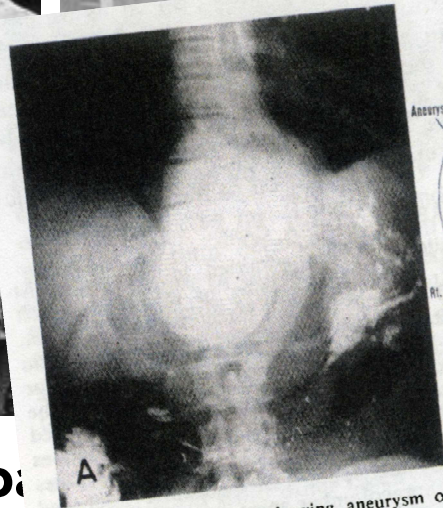
by Charles Rob, M.C., M.Chir., F.R.C.S. of Surgery, St. Mary's Hospital, London

The abdominal aorta has developed at a great rate during the last few years. In this time the only regularly performed operations have been for aneurysms and aortic embolectomy. It is interesting to note that Croot who reviewed the literature in 1951 found that 100 operations performed on the abdominal aorta for aneurysm had had a mortality of 100 per cent. Probably the first successful operation of the aorta for aneurysm was performed by Bauer, who in 1913 successfully ligated the aorta for aneurysm or occlusive disease. Our experience with the following conclusions have been based.

**ANEURYSM BELOW THE RENAL ARTERIES**  
In every case to arteriosclerosis, carries a grave prognosis. I have analysed a series of 121 patients with aneurysm of the abdominal aorta. The average duration of life was less than 18 months. In 1922 case histories were diagnosed, and in 1950 100 case histories were found that 33 per cent. of the patients died, and that the cause of death was rupture of the aorta. In 10 per cent. of those who died, and no less than five of our patients although they had been operated on. It appears that the younger patients are more liable to this catastrophe and that the onset of rupture is more imminent. It is also of interest to note that our patients are relatively young—two of ours were less than 40 years of age and recorded cases have been

aneurysms have been treated by aortic ligation (Moore and Murchison, 1864; Blakemore, 1864; Poppe, 1864)





**Michael DeBakey**  
**Denton Cooley**

Fig. 2.—*A*, aortogram showing aneurysm of descending thoracic aorta. *B*, diagrammatic representation of the aortic tributaries and the involved structures.

the first successful thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysm resection

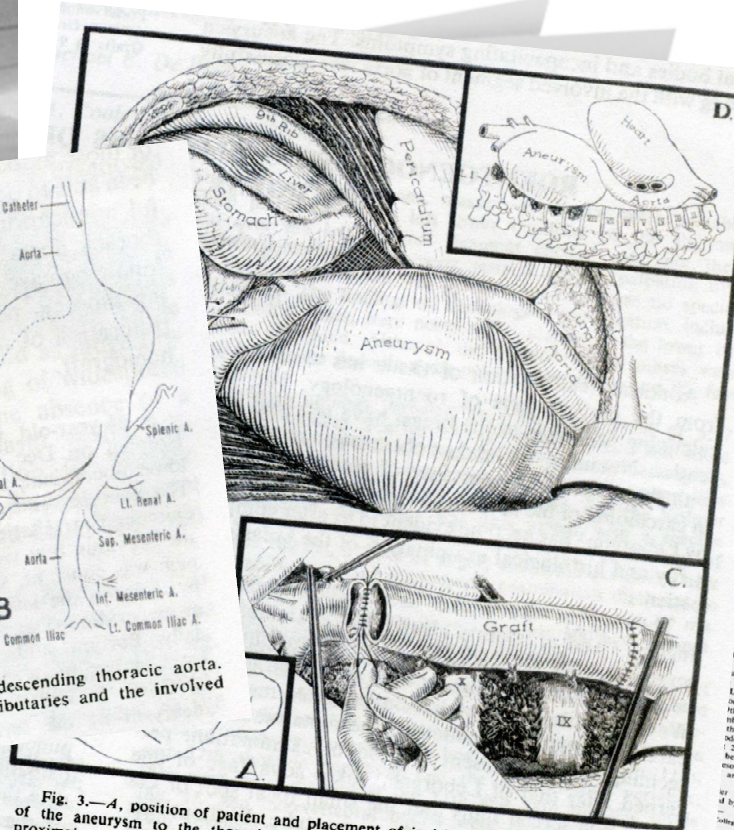


Fig. 3.—*A*, position of patient and placement of incision. *B*, anatomical relationships of the aneurysm to the thoracic and abdominal viscera. *C*, method of occlusion of the proximal and distal aorta during aneurysmectomy and insertion of the aortic homograft. The anastomosis was performed by a continuous through-and-through suture. *D*, representation of the aneurysm showing the relative position and size of the sac and eroded vertebral bodies.

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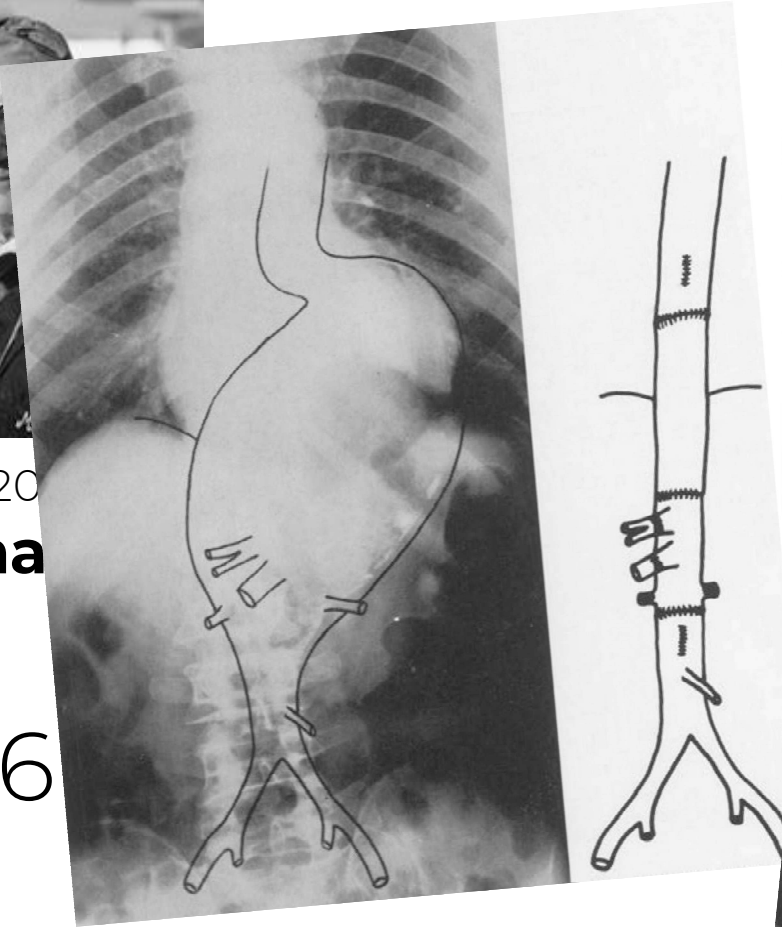
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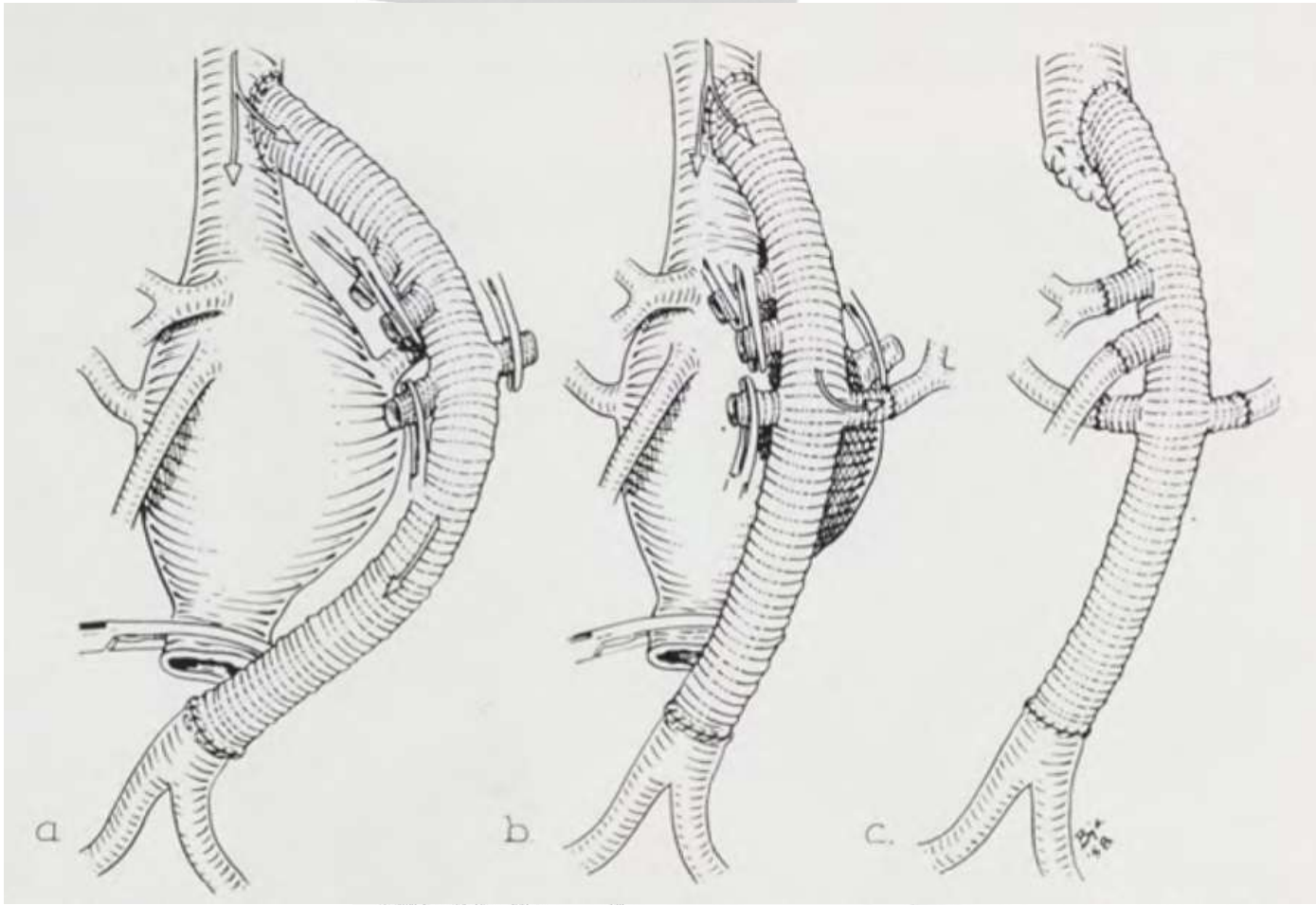
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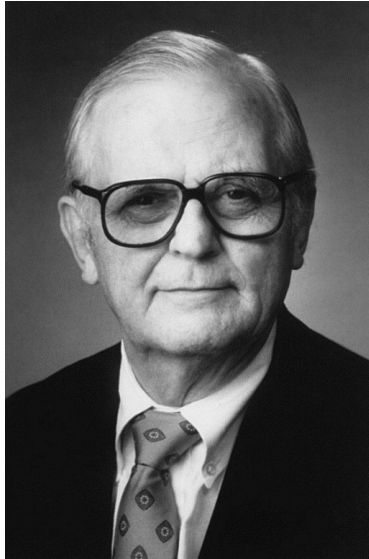
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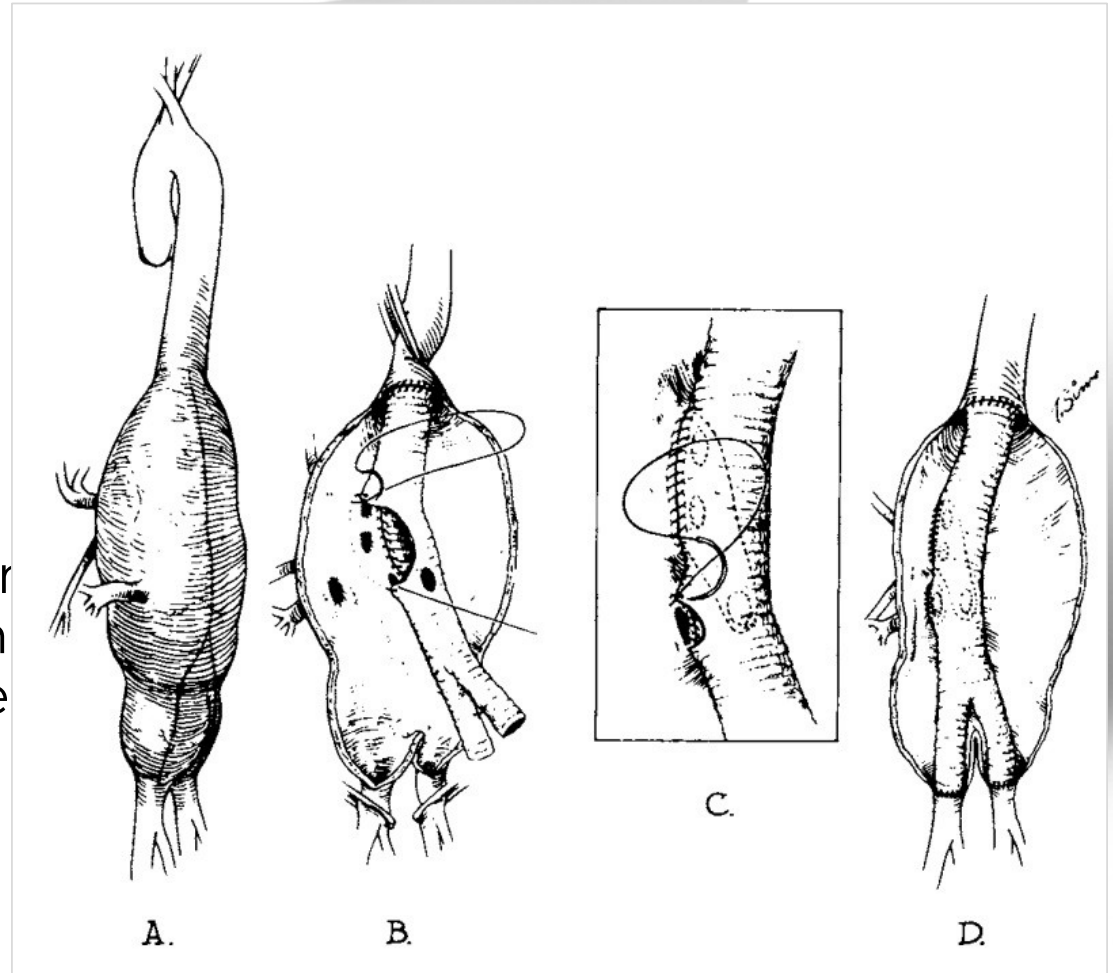
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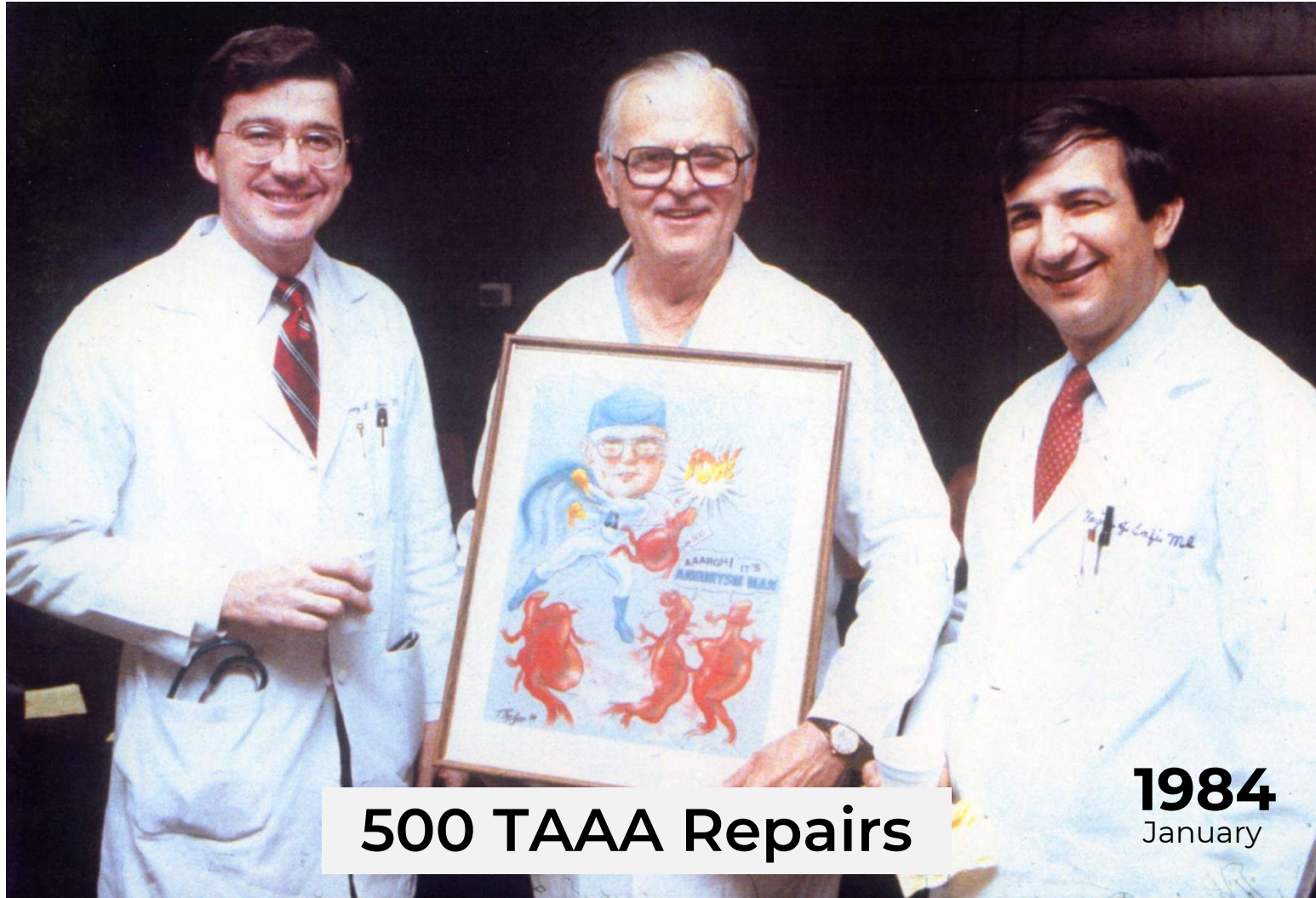




**Stanley Crawford, MD** entered into the arena TAAA with his description of his experience in TAAA repair.

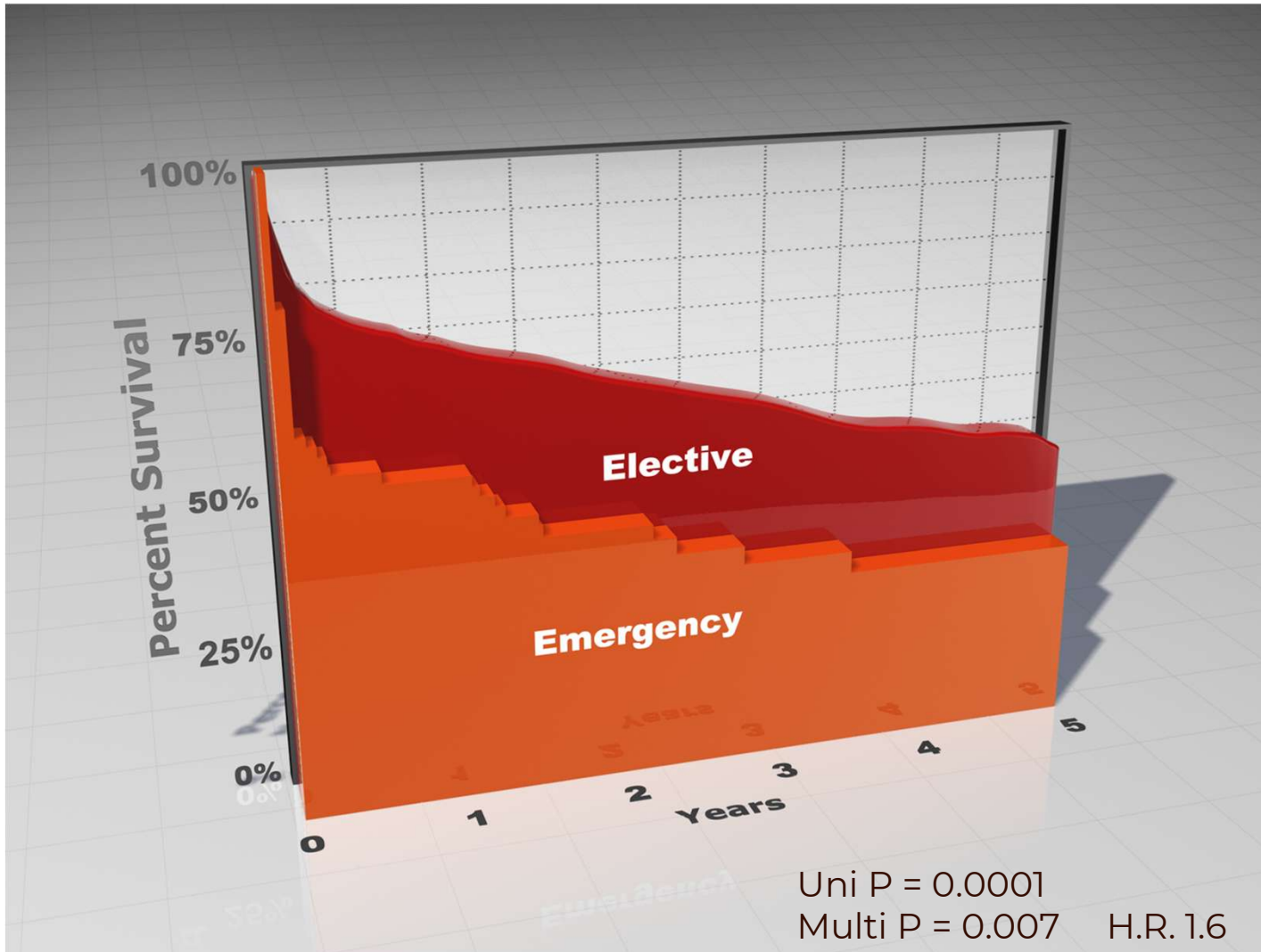
1974



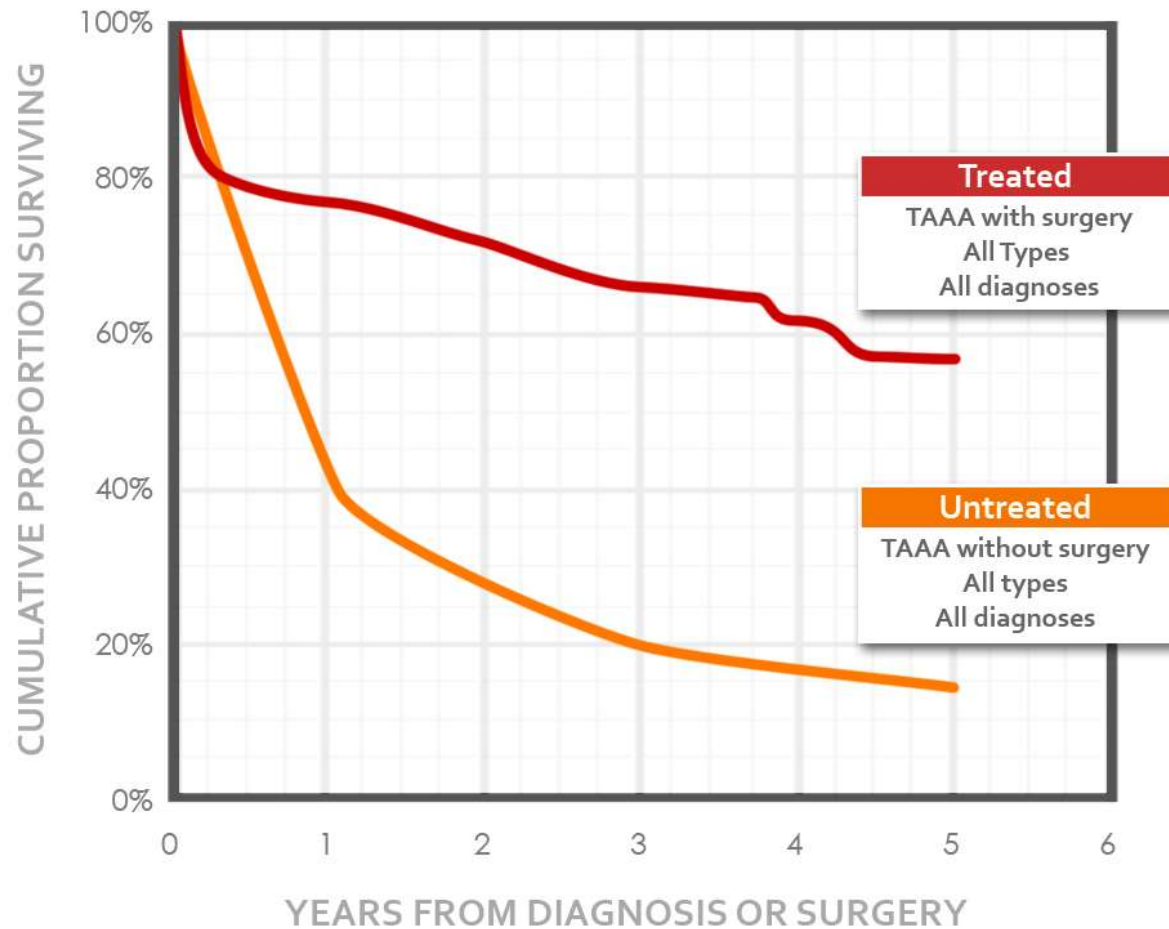


**500 TAAA Repairs**

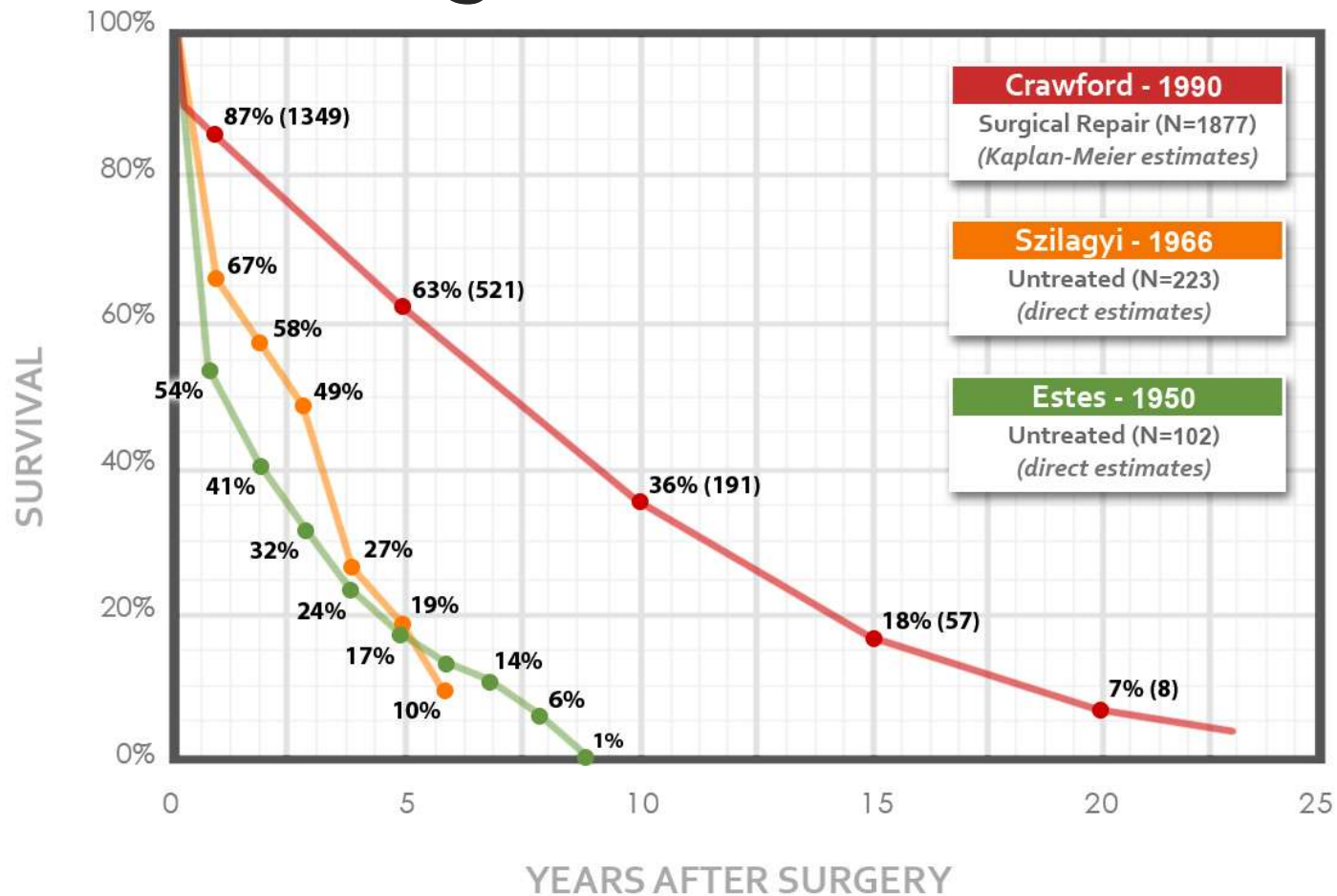
**1984**  
January



# Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm



# Infrarenal Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair: Long-Term Survival



## Experience with 1509 patients undergoing thoracoabdominal aortic operations

Lars G. Svensson, MD, PhD, E. Stanley Crawford, MD,† Kenneth R. Hess, MS, Joseph S. Coselli, MD, and Hazim J. Safi, MD, *Houston, Texas*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to retrospectively identify variables associated with early death and postoperative complications in patients undergoing thoracoabdominal aortic operations.

**Methods:** The data on 1509 patients who underwent 1679 thoracoabdominal aortic repairs between 1960 and 1991 were retrospectively reviewed. The median age was 66 years (range 1.5 years to 86 years), and aortic dissection was present in 276 (18%) patients. The extent of the first repair performed included 378 (25%) type I (proximal descending to upper abdominal aorta), 442 (29%) type II (proximal descending and abdominal aorta), and 346 (23%) type III (distal descending and abdominal aorta). The median total aortic clamp time was 43 minutes. The 30-day survival rate was 92% (1386/1509) for the 30-year period. On multivariate analysis the preoperative and operative variables associated with death included ( $p < 0.05$ ) increasing age, preoperative creatinine level, concurrent proximal aortic aneurysms, coronary artery disease, chronic lung disease, and total aortic clamp time. When the postoperative variables were also included in the stepwise logistic regression model, then in addition, cardiac complications, stroke, kidney failure, and regression in hemoglobin became significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). The overall incidence of paraplegia or paraparesis was 16% (234/1509). By use of stepwise logistic regression analysis, the significant predictors ( $p < 0.05$ ) of paraplegia or paraparesis were proximal aortic aneurysm, extent of aorta repaired, aortic rupture, patient age, proximal total aortic clamp time, and history of renal dysfunction. Kidney failure (postoperative creatinine level  $> 3$  mg/dl or dialysis) occurred in 18% (269/1509) of patients; dialysis was required in 9% (136/1509). Gastrointestinal complications manifested in 7% (101/1509) patients.

**Conclusions:** Although the survival rate has improved, paraplegia/paraparesis and kidney failure continue to be vexing problems that require further research. (*J Vasc Med Biol* 1993;17:357-70.)

After the initial reports in 1955 by Etheredge et al.<sup>1</sup> and in 1956 by DeBakey et al.<sup>2</sup> of the successful repair of thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms, Crawford<sup>3</sup> in 1965, commenced using the inclusion technique for repair of thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms.<sup>4</sup> Results of thoracoabdominal aortic operations have improved considerably over the

ensuing years to the extent that in recent prospective studies, we have reported a 97% 30-day survival rate in 210 consecutive patients who underwent operation over a 13-month period.<sup>5,6</sup> Similarly the results of thoracoabdominal aneurysm operations combined with repairs of occlusive disease of the visceral arteries have been good.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless the postoperative complications of lower extremity neurovascular deficit,<sup>8,9</sup> kidney failure,<sup>10</sup> and lung failure<sup>11</sup> have continued to be significant problems.

In this study we retrospectively reviewed 1509 patients who underwent operation by the senior author (E.S.C.) to establish a baseline of results and thus identify the predictors of early death, lower extremity deficit, and kidney failure.

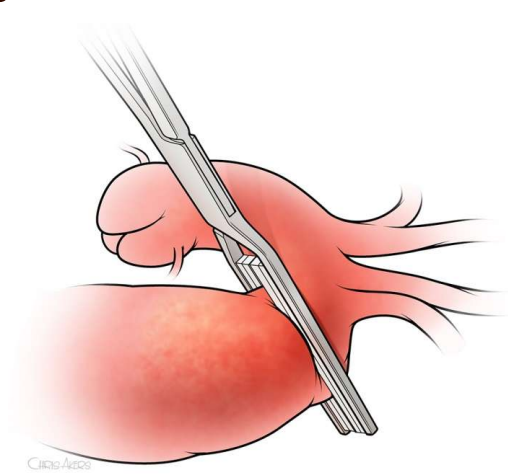
### PATIENTS AND METHODS

Between June 20, 1960, and January 31, 1991, the senior author operated on 1509 patients with

From the Department of Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.  
Presented at the Fortieth Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter, Chicago, Ill., June 9-10, 1993.  
Reprint requests: Lars G. Svensson, MD, Department of Surgery, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Luby Clinic, 41 Mall Rd., Houston, TX 77030.  
Copyright © 1993 by The Society for Vascular Surgery and International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter.  
0741-3214/93/05100 + 10 24.00/0

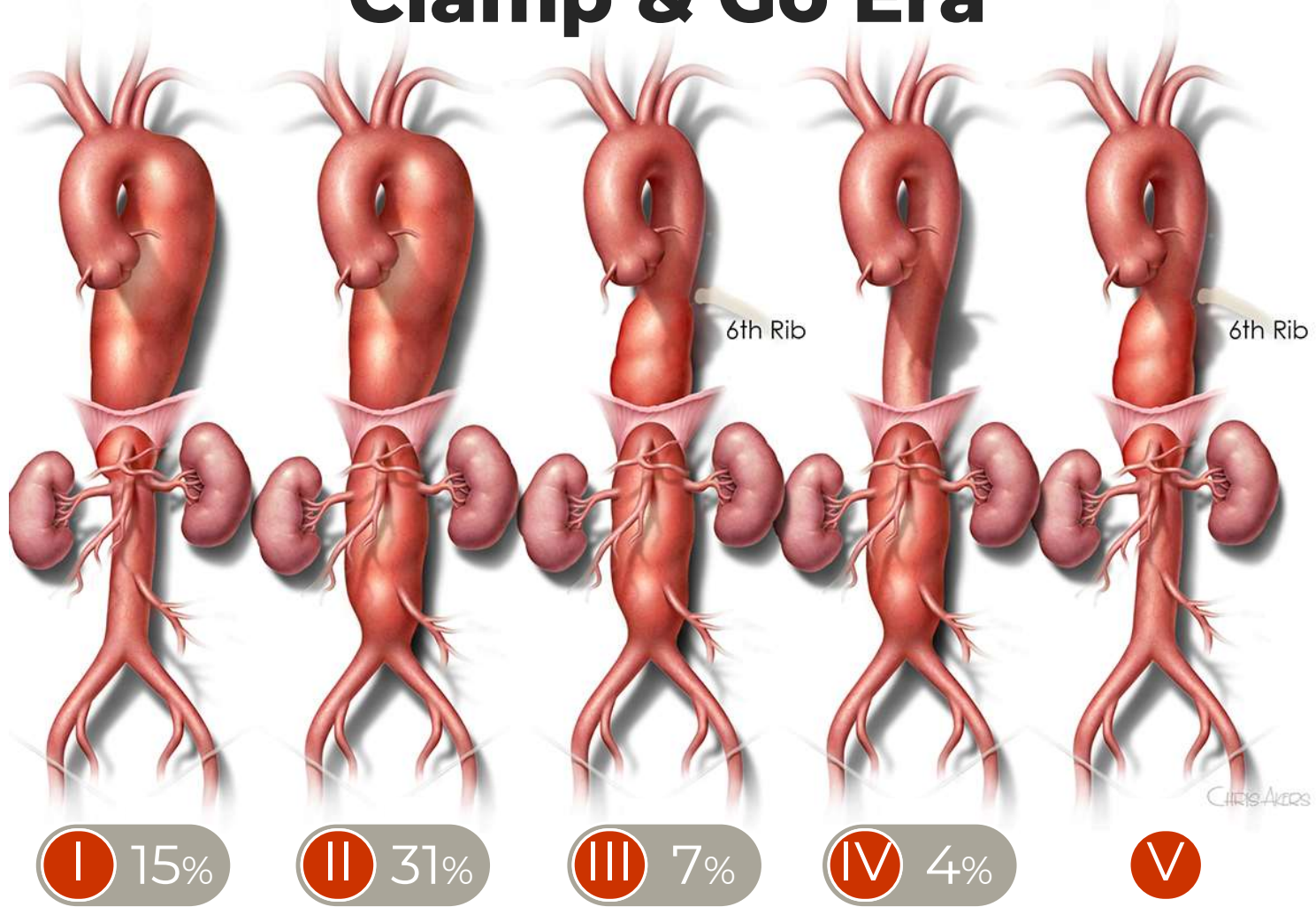
# SCI - Clamp and Go

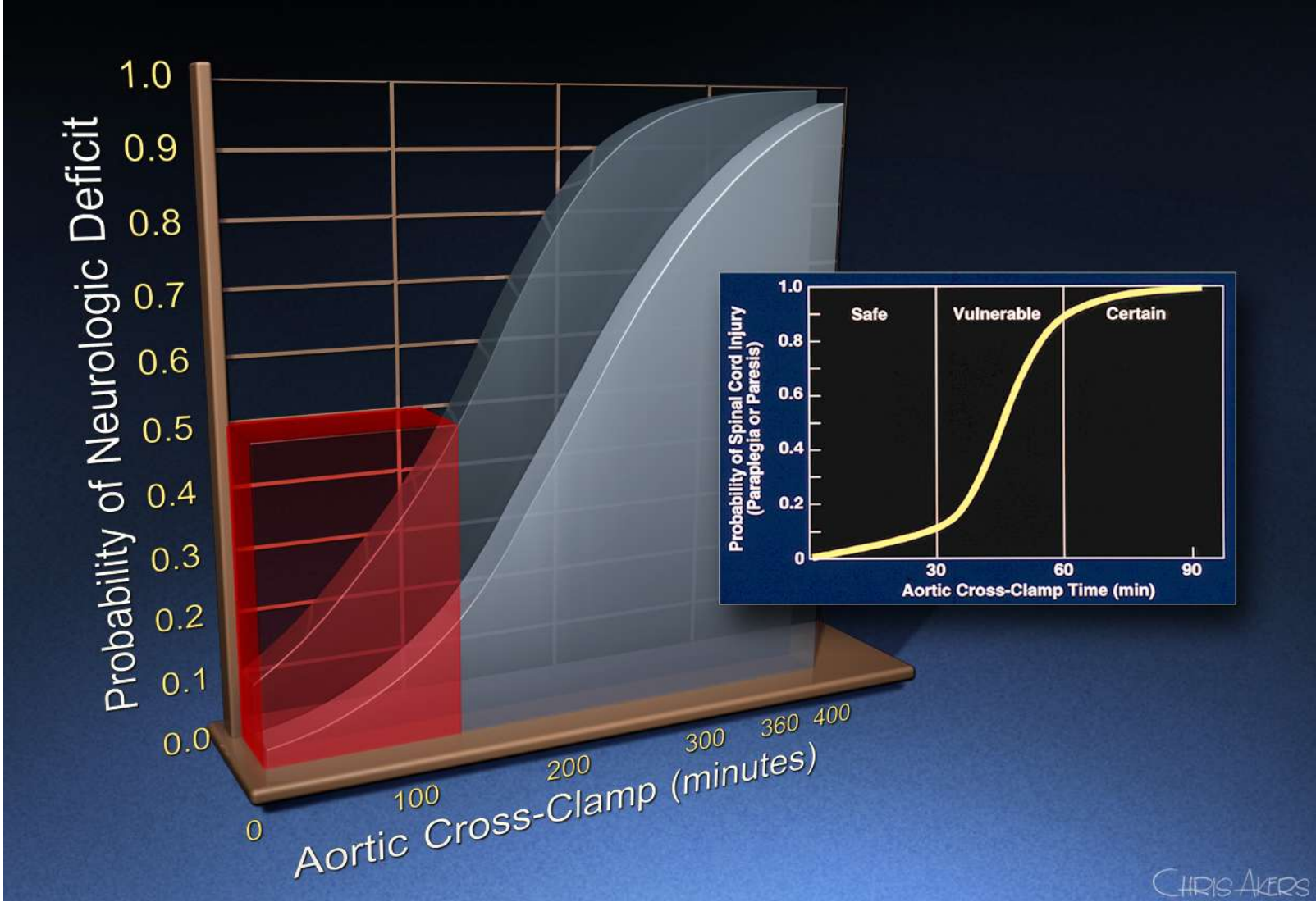
Extent	<0.0001
Aortic Clamp Time	<0.0001
Rupture	0.0073
Age	0.025
Proximal Aneurysm	0.034
Renal Dysfunction	0.040



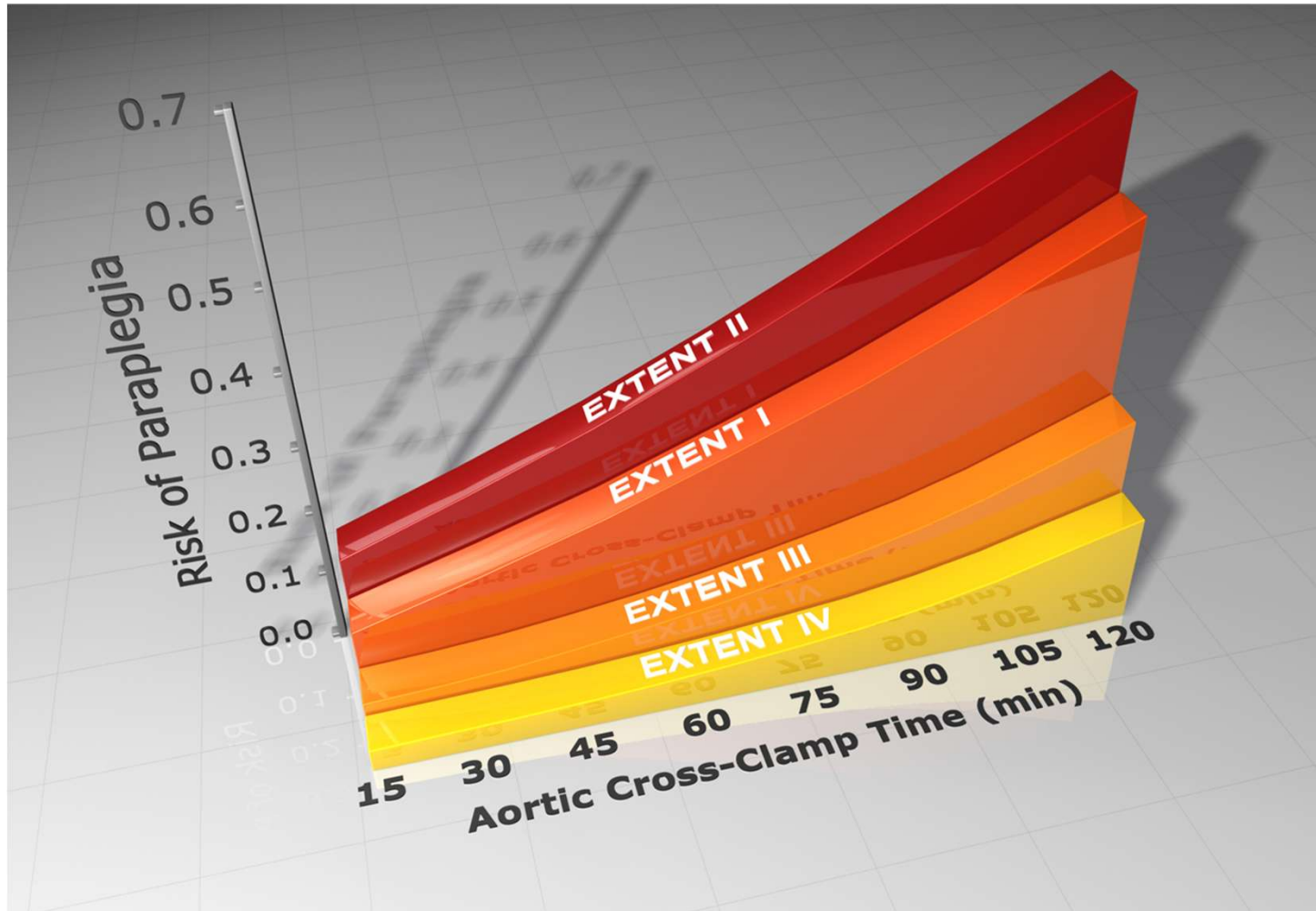
1993

# Clamp & Go Era

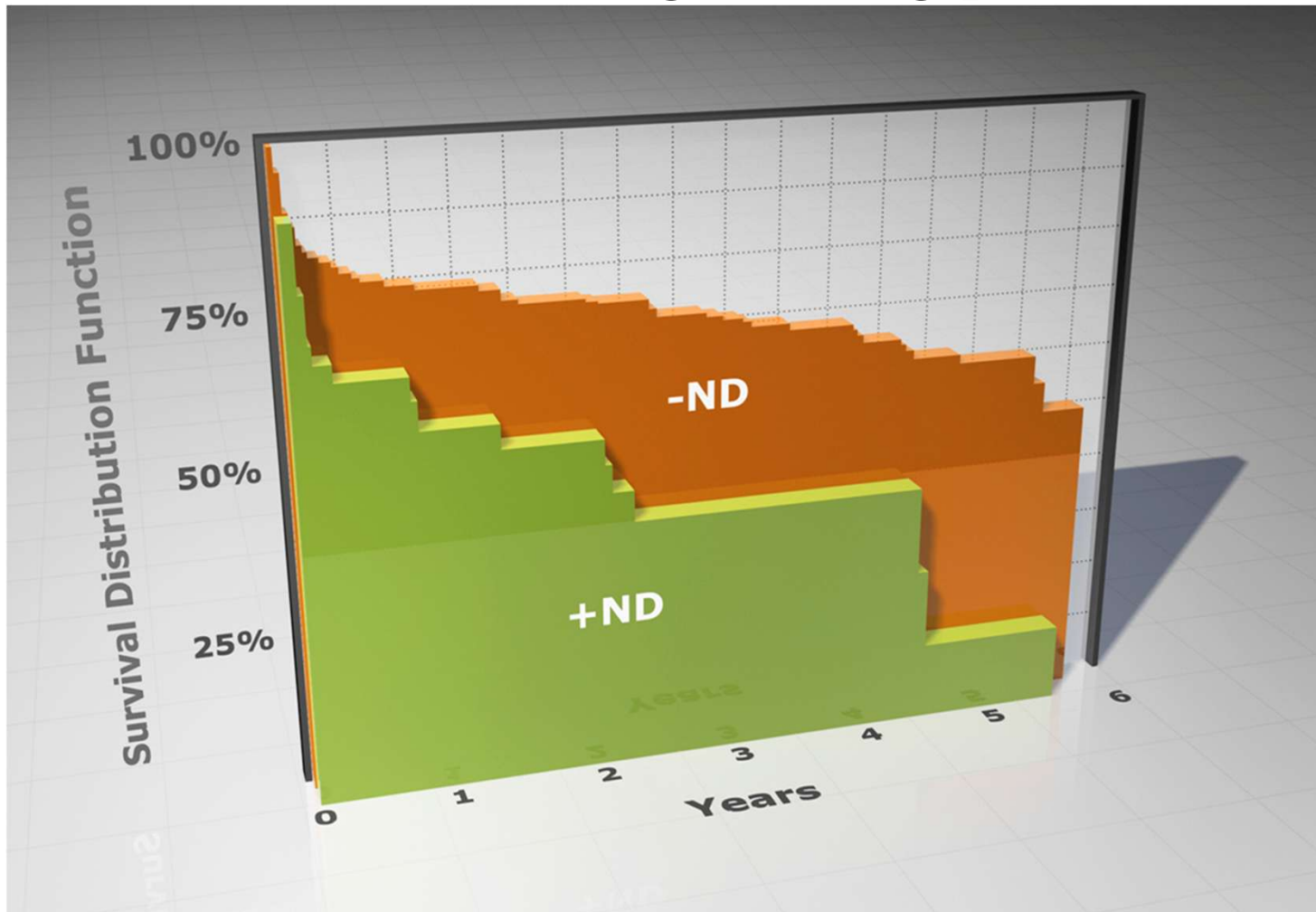




# Clamp and Go Era



# All Aneurysm Types



Newes from the Dead.

OR

A TRUE AND EXACT

Narration of the miraculous  
deliverance of

ANNE GREENE,

Who being Executed at OXFORD De-  
cembr. 14. 1650. afterwards revived; and  
by the care of certain hylicians there,  
is now perfectly recovered.

Together with the manner of her Suffering, and the  
particular meanes used for her Recovery.

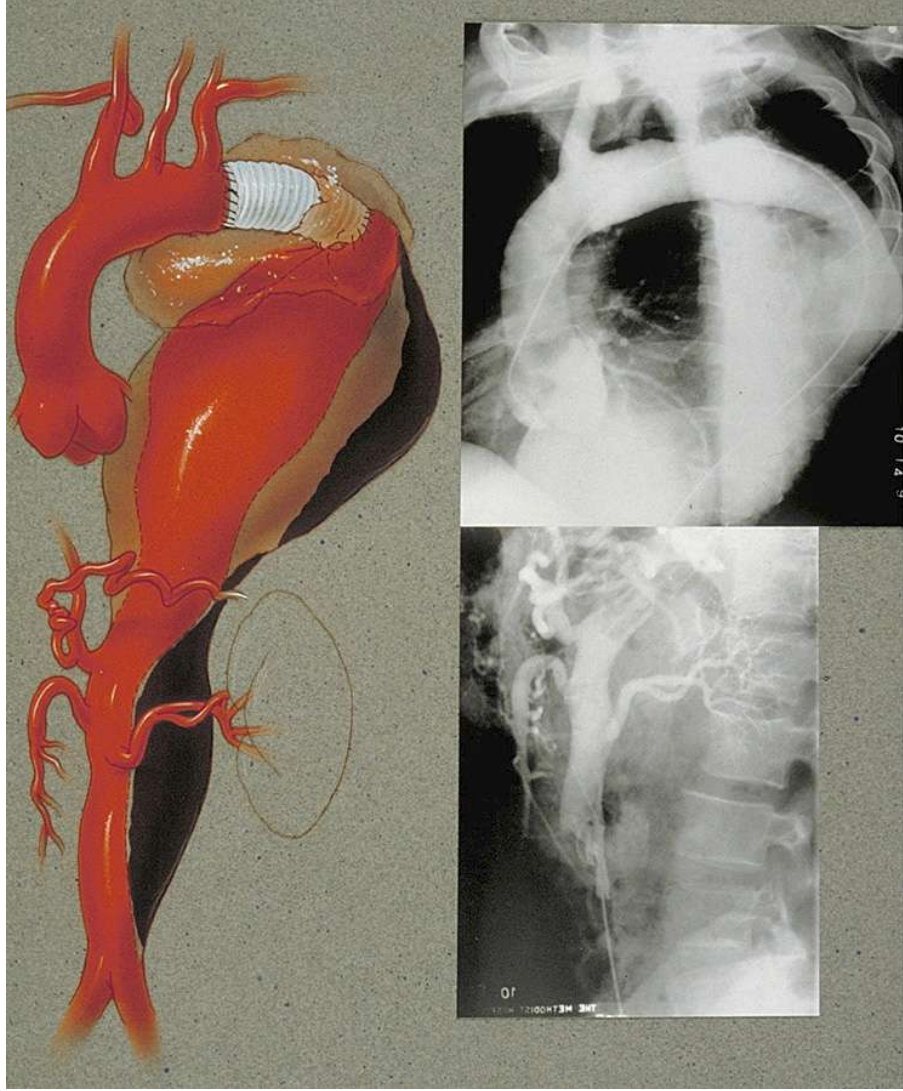
Written by a Scholler in OXFORD for the  
Satisfaction of a friend, who desired to be  
informed concerning the truth  
of the businesse.

Whereunto are added certain Poems, casually  
written upon that Subject.

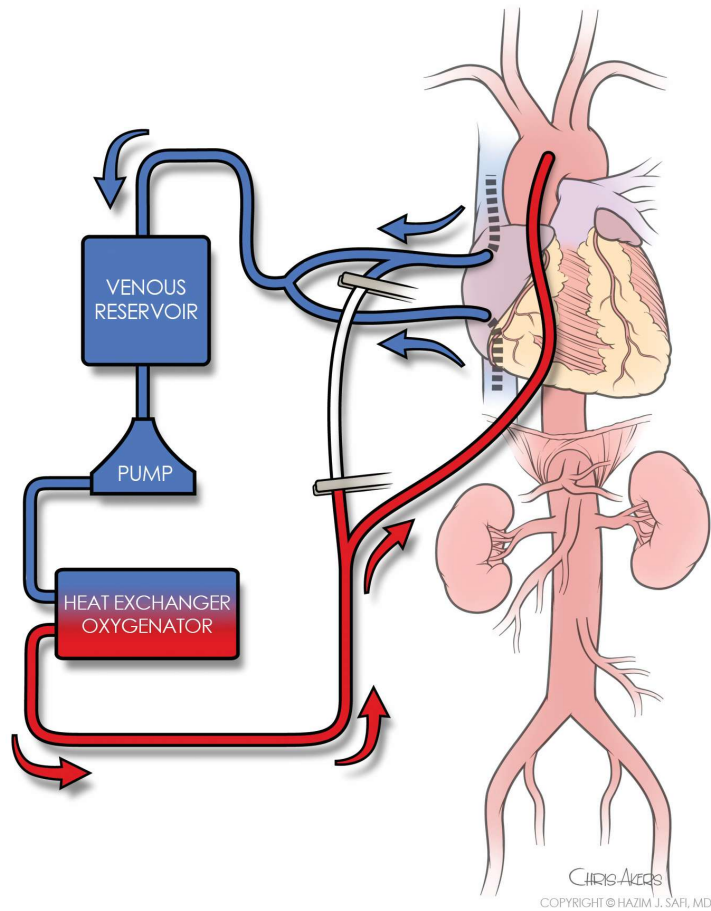
The Second Impression with Additions.

OXFORD,  
Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD, for  
THO. ROBINSON. D. 1651.

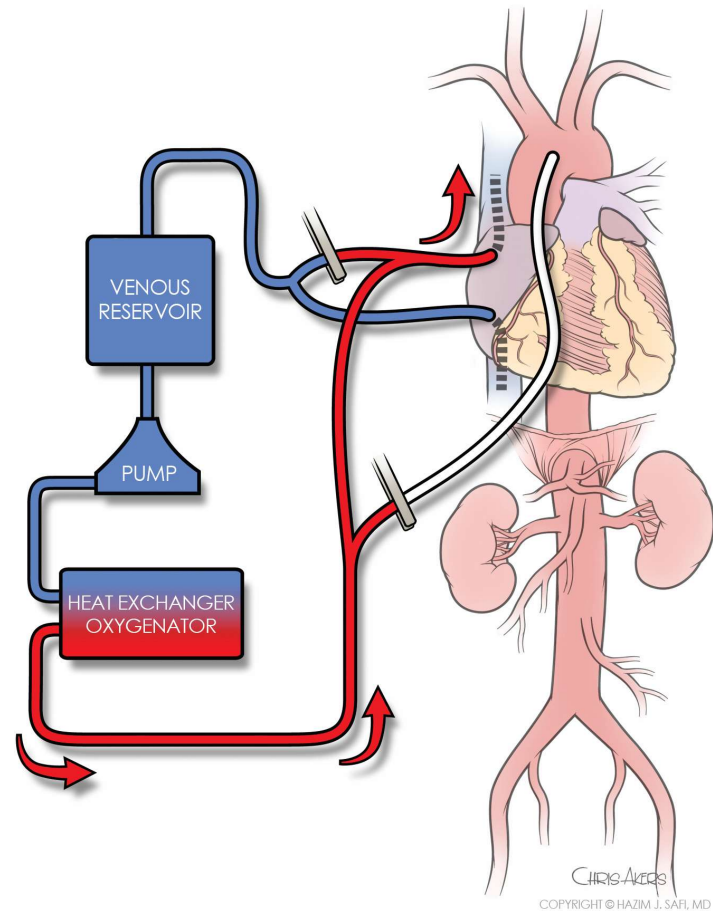


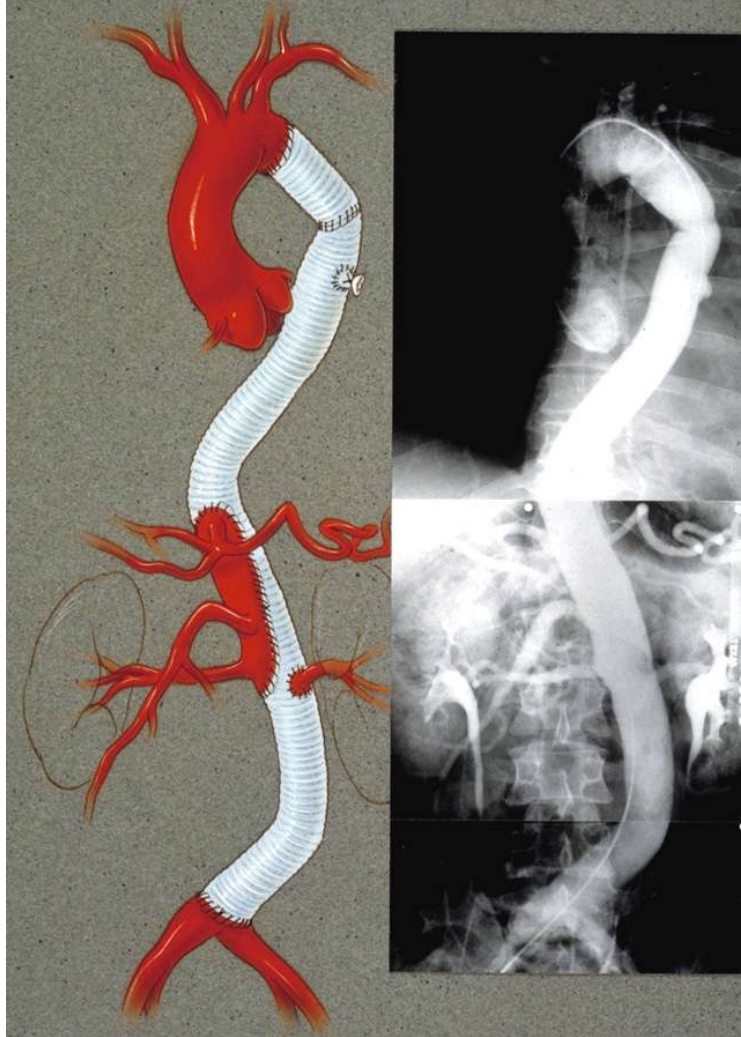


# Cooling Phase



# Arrest Phase









# Results

1999 - 2014

---

**1183** patients → **1251** thoracic or  
thoracoabdominal aortic repair

Hypothermic circulatory arrest  
required for **33** patients (**2.6%**)

---

Median age: 60

23  10 

# Results

Post-operative hemodialysis required in  
**9.1%** of patients

---

Overall, 30-day mortality was **8 (24%)**



# **Rationale for Spinal Cord Protection**

We introduced the concept of utilizing adjuncts (distal aortic perfusion and CSF drain) for prevention of spinal cord deficits in TAAA repair.

1994

## Neurologic deficit in patients at high risk with thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms: The role of cerebral spinal fluid drainage and distal aortic perfusion

Hazim J. Safi, MD, Stefano Bartoli, MD, Kenneth R. Hesse, PhD, Salwa S. Shams, MD, Joseph R. Viers, MD, Ghazala R. Butt, MD, Roy Sheinbaum, MD, Harold K. Doerr, MD, Robert Maulsby, MD, and Victor M. Rivera, MD, Houston, Texas

**Purpose:** This prospective study evaluated the possible prevention of postoperative neurologic deficit in patients at high risk with thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms (TAAA), types I and II, by use of perioperative cerebrospinal fluid drainage and distal aortic perfusion.

**Methods:** Between September 18, 1992, and August 8, 1993, 45 consecutive patients underwent TAAA repair (14 type I, 31 type II). Thirty-six were men and nine were women. The median age was 63 years (range 28 to 88). Twenty-four of 45 patients (53%) had dissection and 17 of 45 (38%) had prior proximal aortic replacement. All patients underwent perioperative cerebrospinal fluid drainage and distal aortic perfusion. Aortic clamping time was 42 minutes. Thirty-five of 45 patients (78%) underwent intercostal artery reattachment.

**Results:** The 30-day survival rate was 96% (43 of 45 patients). Early neurologic deficit occurred in two of 45 patients (4%). We compared the neurologic deficit also occurred in two of 45 patients (4%) of a previously unpublished study of 112 patients also from this center. Total neurologic deficit for the current group was five of 45 (9%) versus the previous group of 38 of 112 (34%) with a *p* value of 0.0034 (Pearson chi-square test). Neurologic deficit for patients with type I TAAA was 0 of 14 (0%) versus 15 of 73 (21%) (*p* = 0.062); for patients with type II TAAA 4 of 31 (13%) versus 15 of 73 (21%) (*p* = 0.0304); for patients with aortic dissection, neurologic deficit was 3 of 24 (12%) versus 9 of 32 (28%) (*p* = 0.0601); for patients with aortic clamp times less than 45 minutes, neurologic deficit was 1 of 21 (5%) versus 3 of 22 (14%) (*p* = 0.011). For patients with aortic clamp times equal to or greater than 45 minutes, neurologic deficit was 3 of 21 (14%) versus 21 of 44 (48%) (*p* = 0.0090). **Conclusion:** Neurologic deficit in patients treated for types I and II TAAA was reduced significantly by perioperative cerebral spinal fluid drainage and distal aortic perfusion. (J Vasc Med 1994;20:434-43)

Neurologic deficit, the most devastating complication of thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm

From the Baylor College of Medicine, The Methodist Hospital, Houston.  
Presented at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the American Association for Vascular Surgery, Houston, Tex, Jan. 26-29, 1994.  
Reprint requests: Hazim J. Safi, MD, 6550 Fannin, Suite 1603, Houston, TX 77030.  
Copyright © 1994 by The Society for Vascular Surgery and International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter.  
0741-8214/94/080434-08

(TAAA) surgery, remains the foremost problem for 0.5% to 35% of such operations.<sup>1,2</sup> The risk of neurologic deficit developing largely depends on the extent of the aneurysm (Stanford type I, II, III, or IV) (Fig. 1) and its cause (dissection or not),<sup>3,4</sup> the spinal cord segment resected to protect and its distal extent, and the extent of aortic clamping with limited success.<sup>5-8</sup>

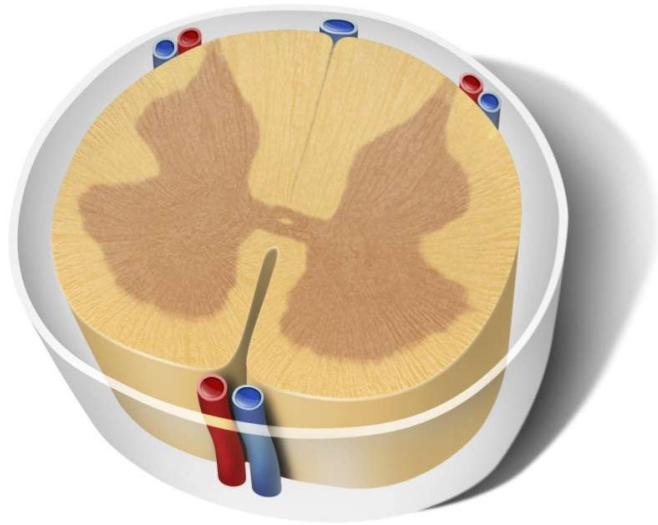
Cerebrospinal fluid drainage (CSFD) was used in dogs with good results in the prevention of neurologic deficit.<sup>9</sup> Subsequently, it was successfully used

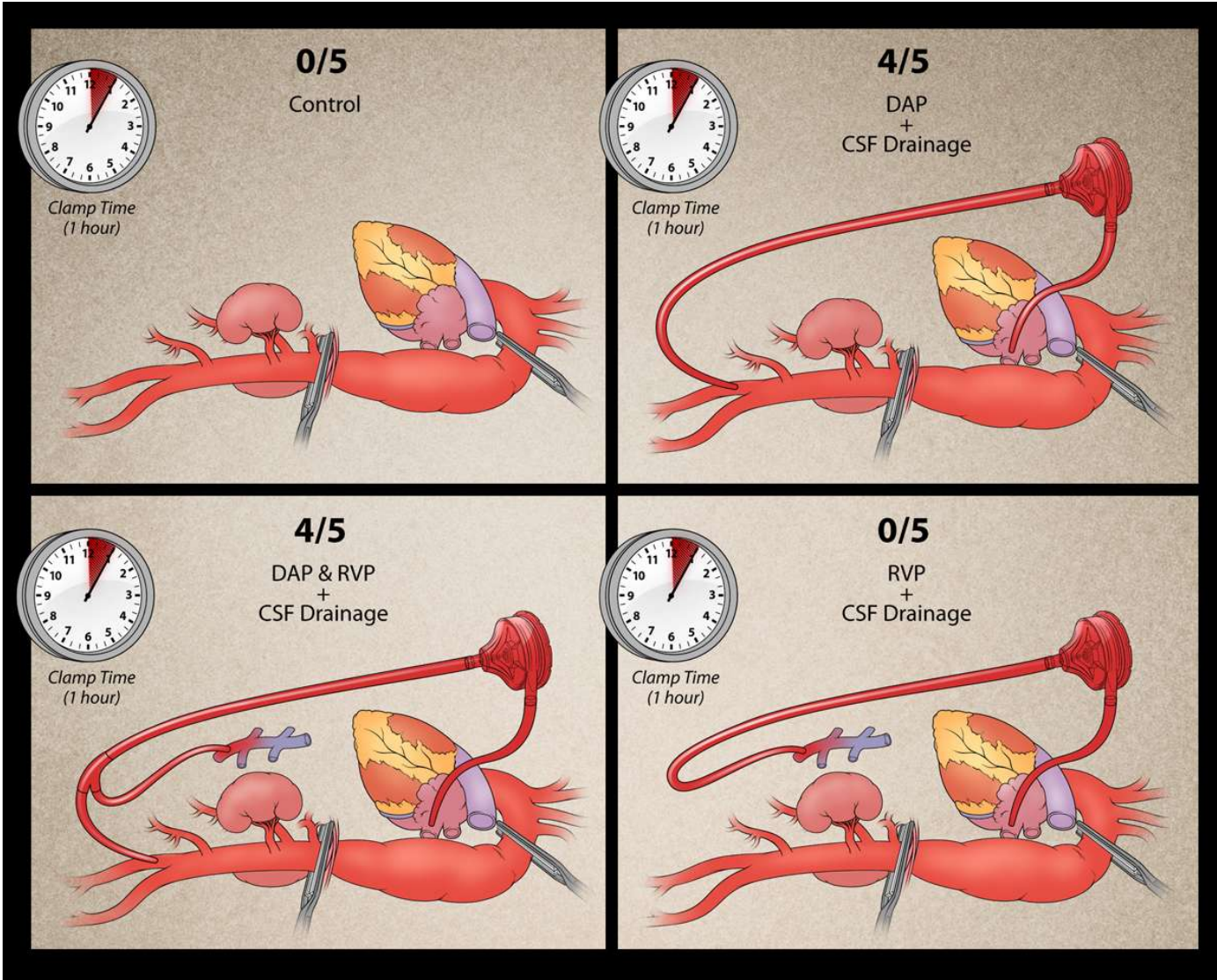
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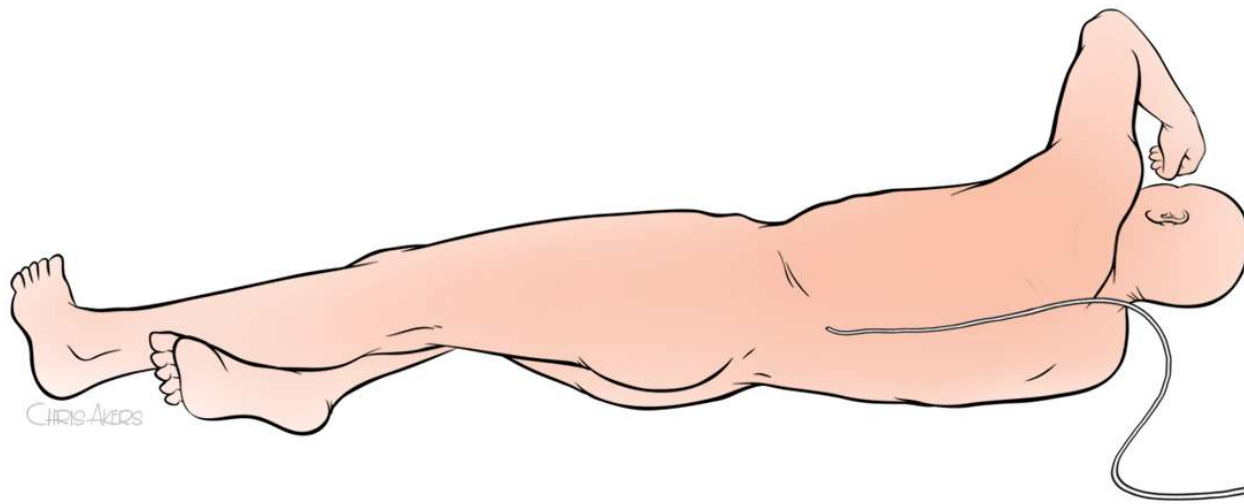
# Spinal Cord Protection

1. Distal aortic pressure
2. Moderate hypothermia
3. CSF pressure



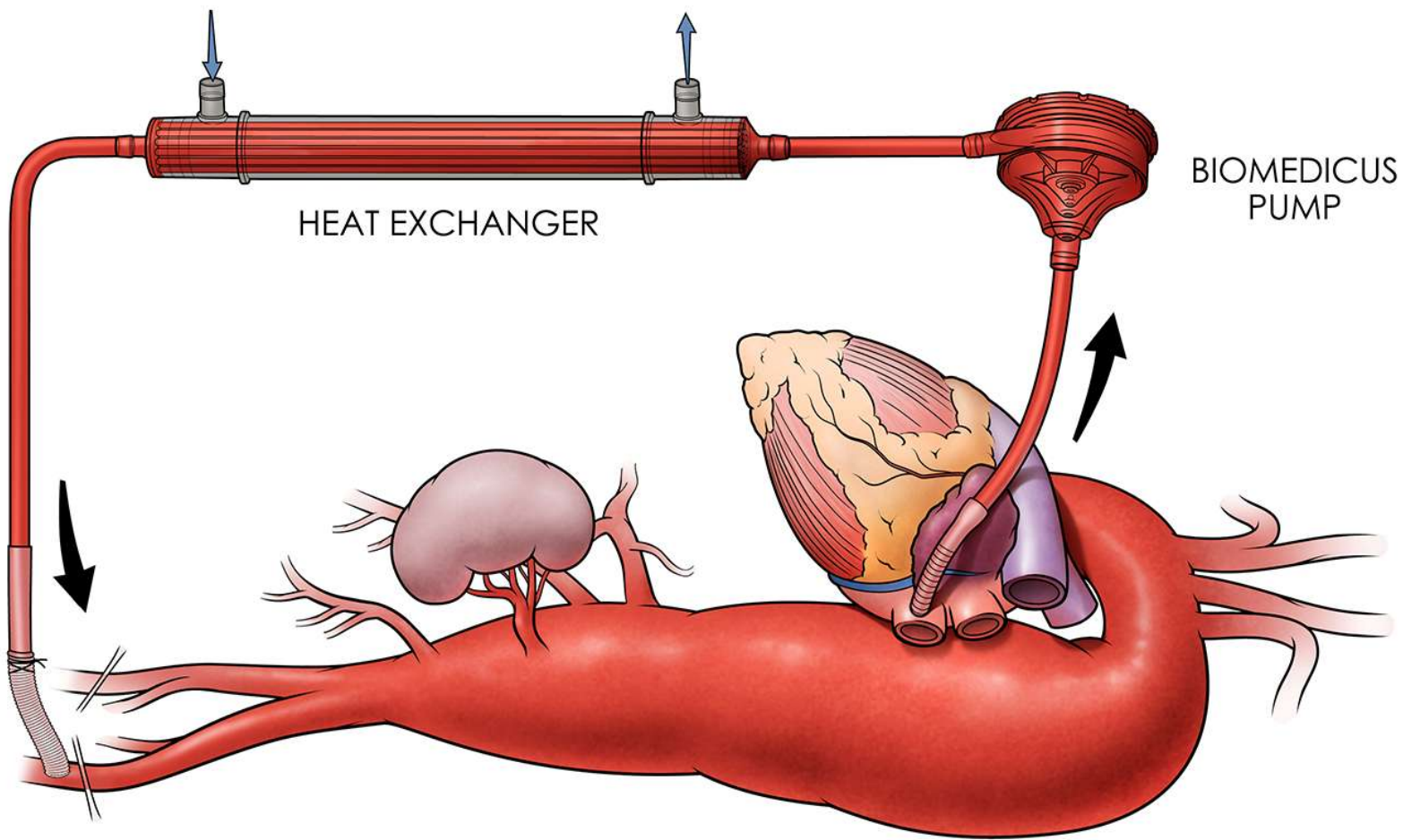


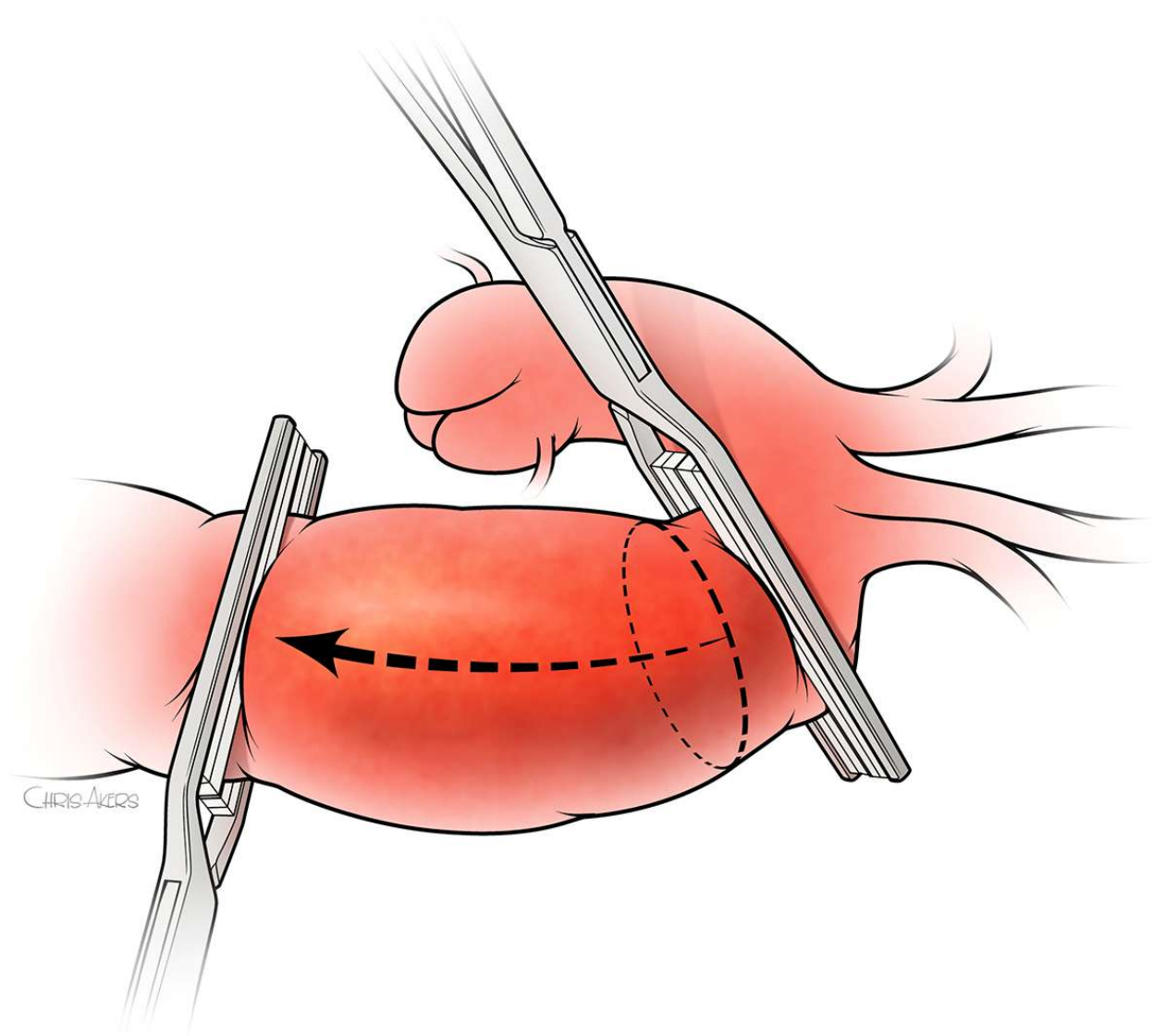
# CSF Drainage



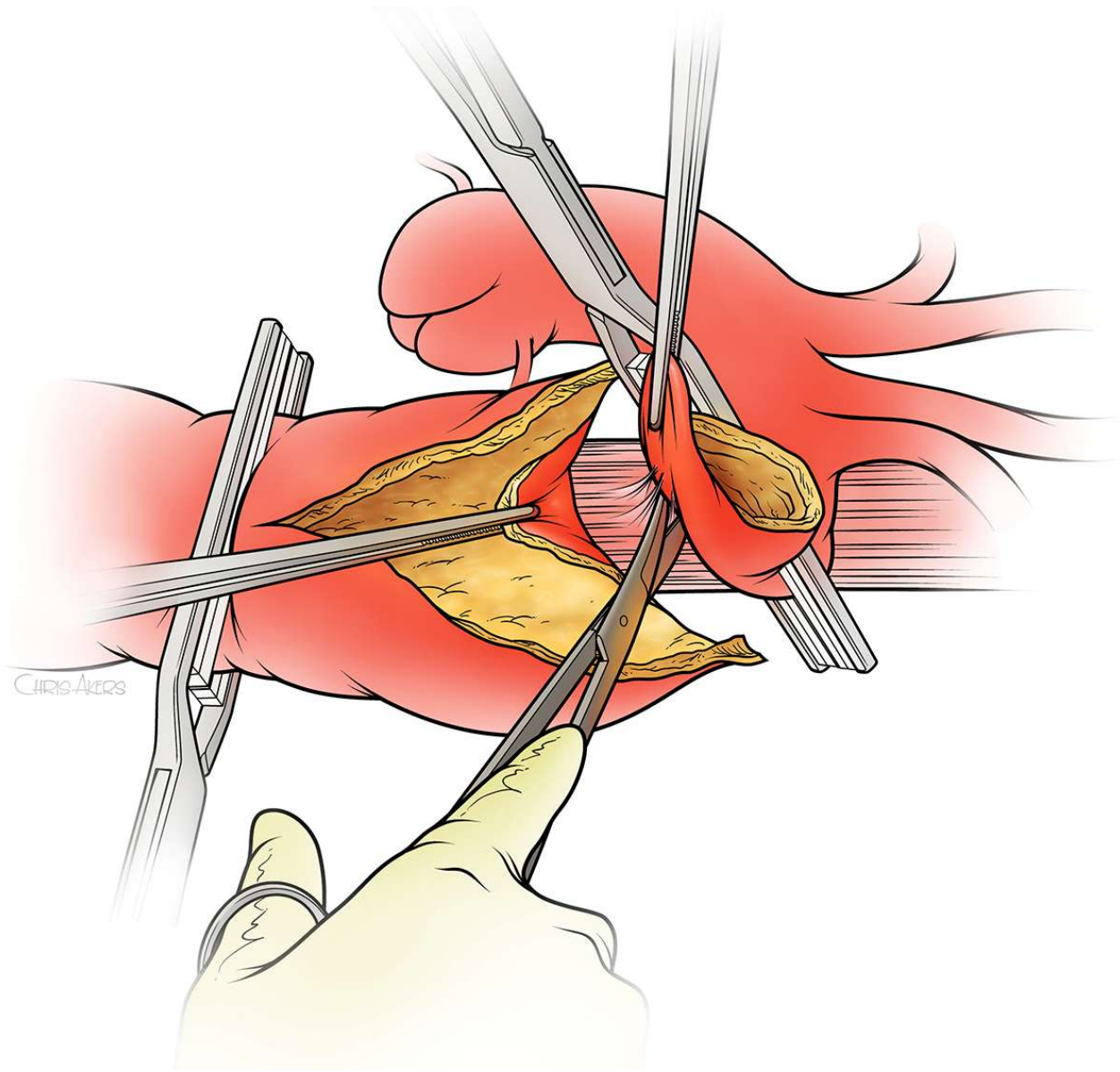
**10 – 15**  
mmHg

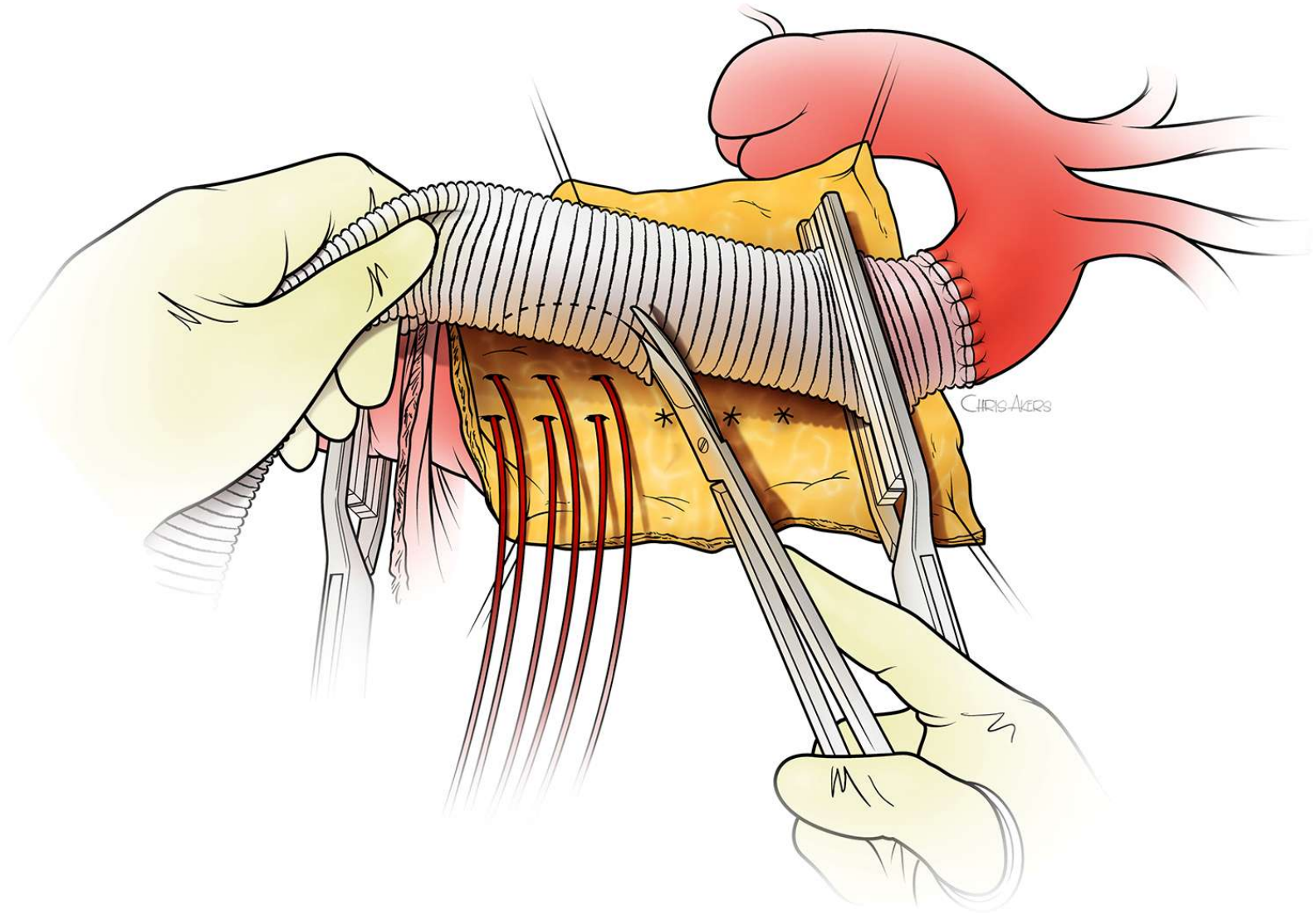


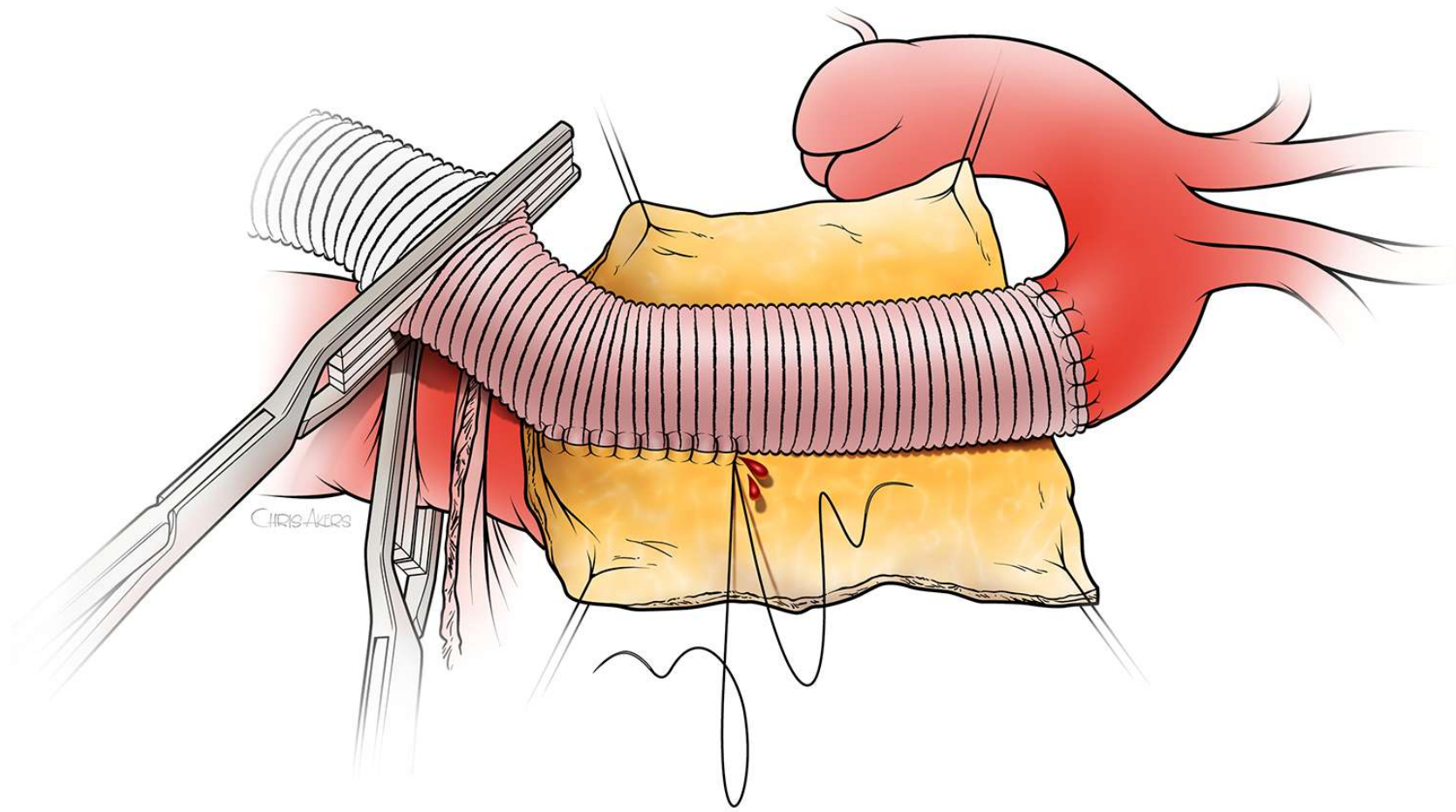


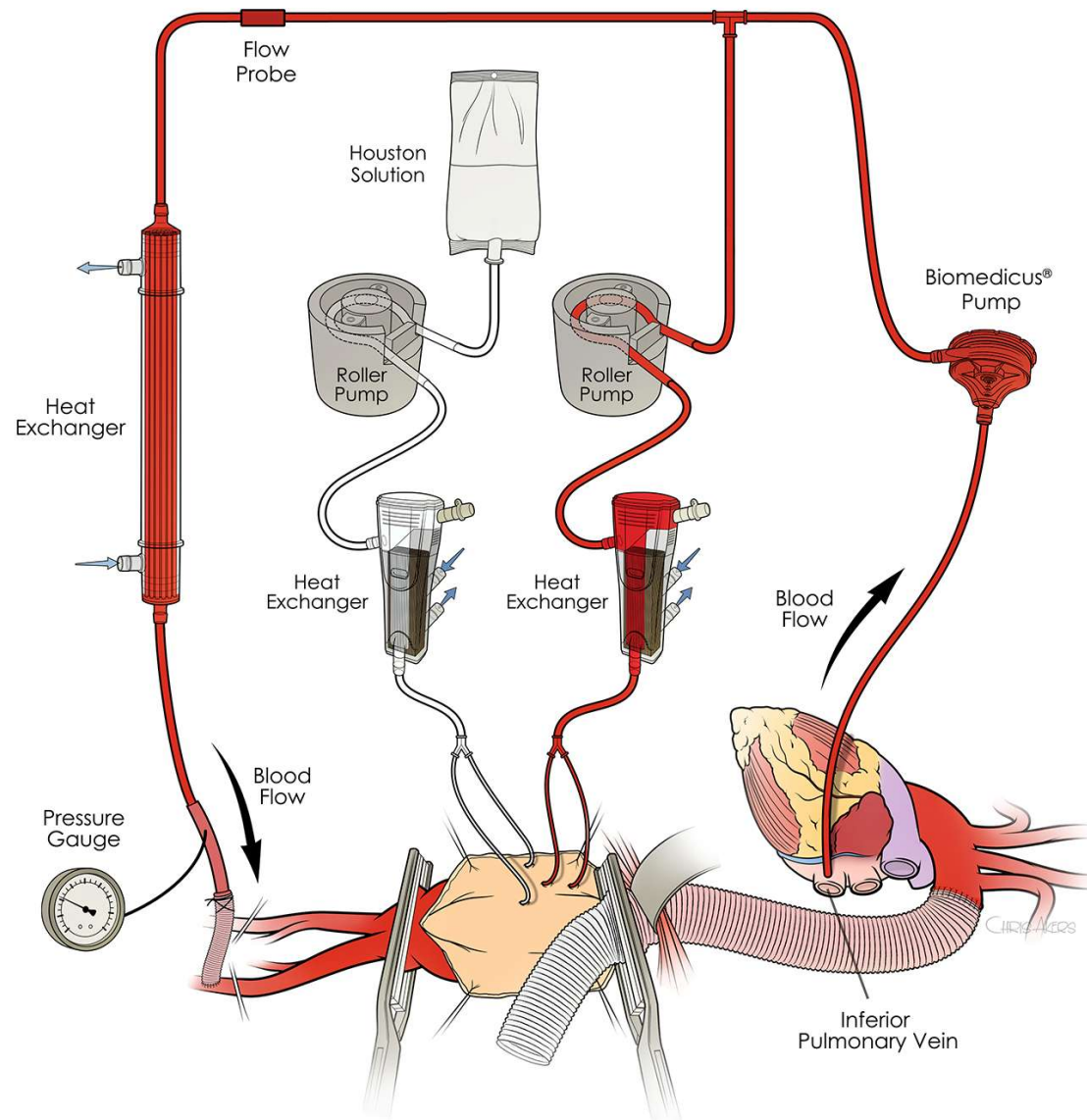


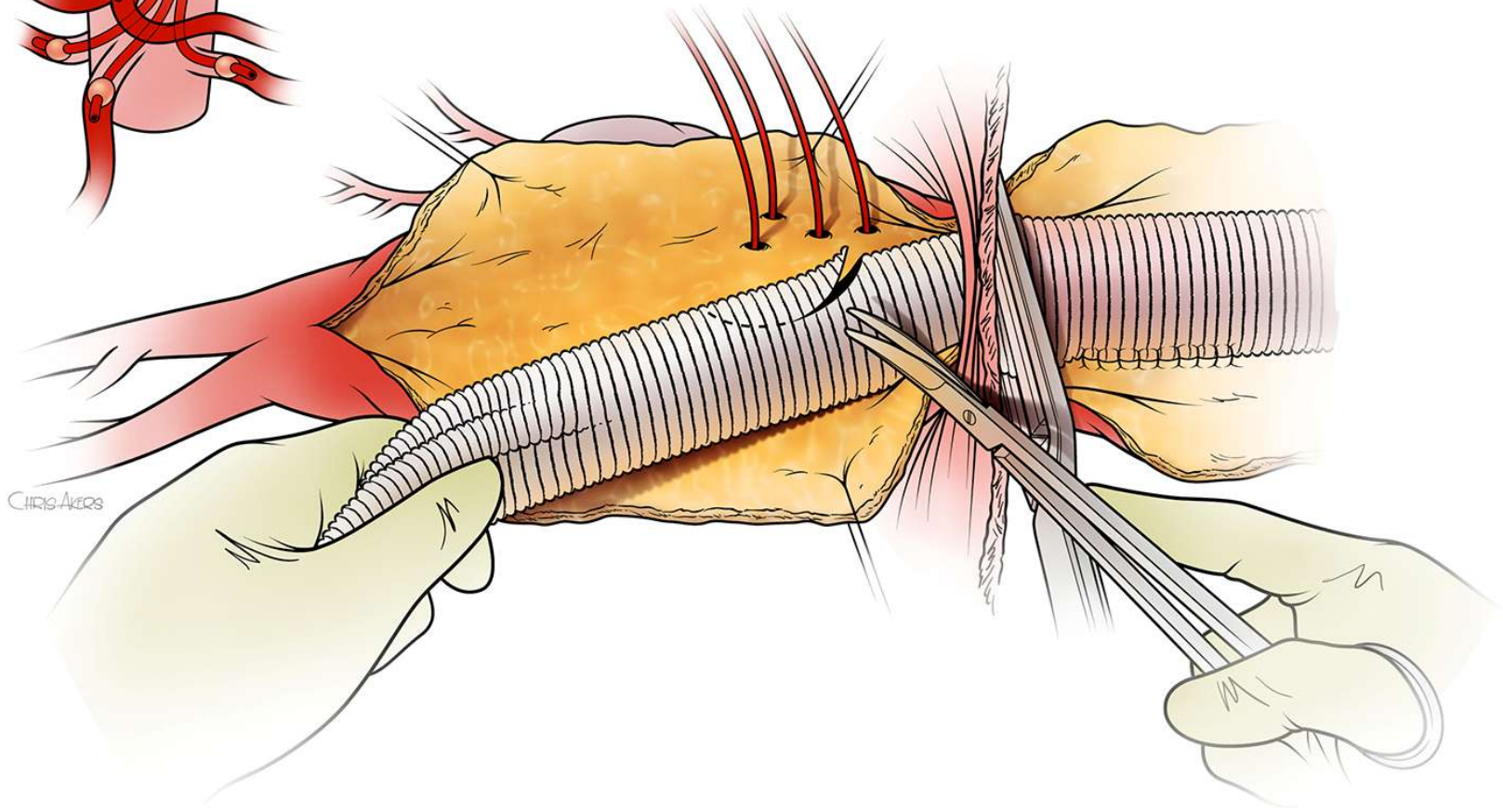
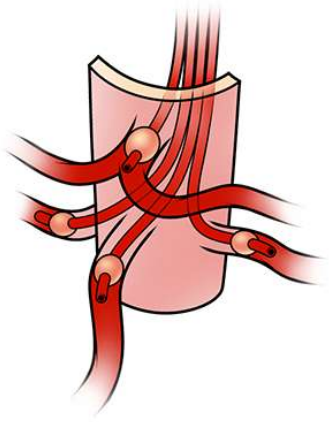
CHRIS AVERS



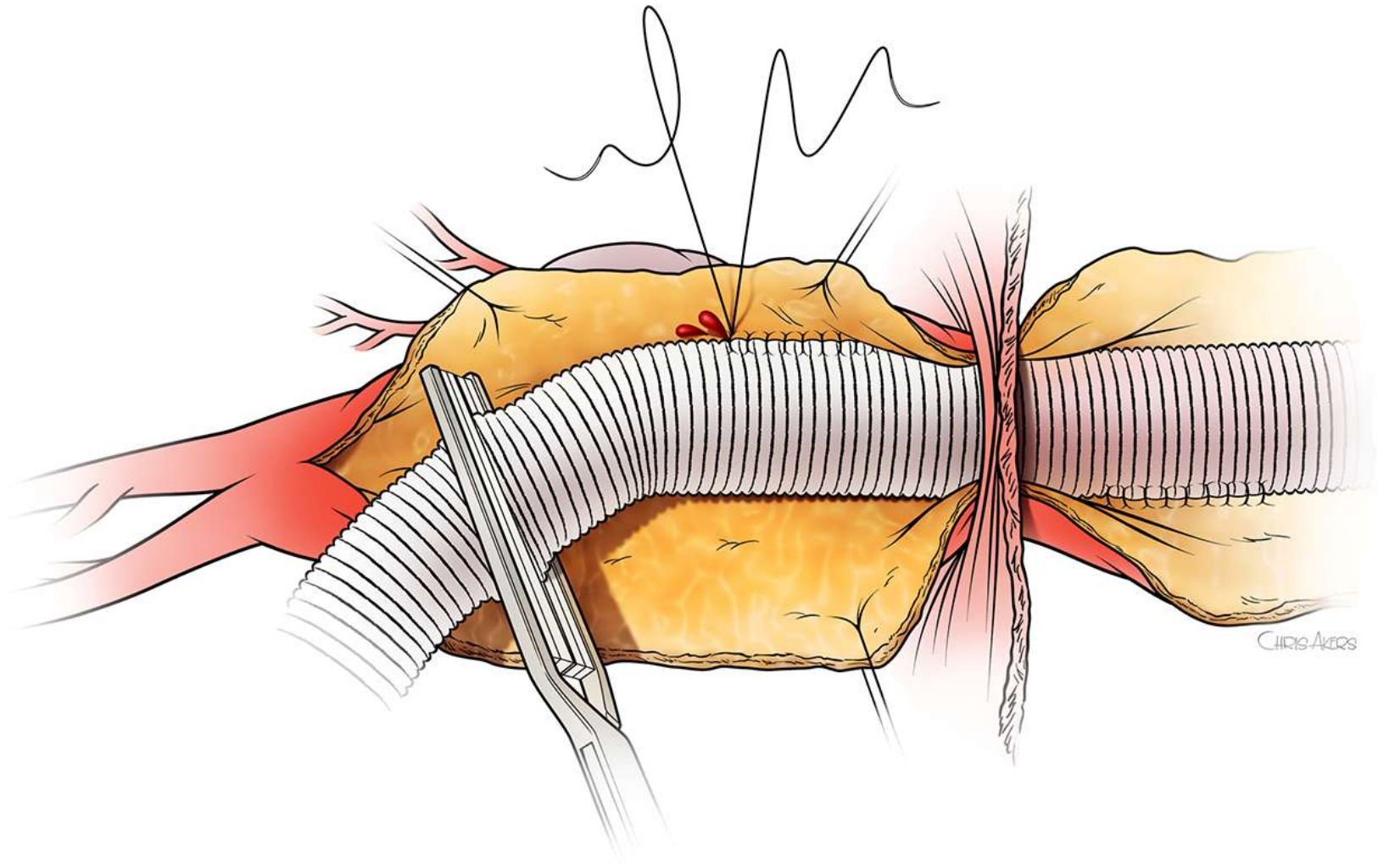




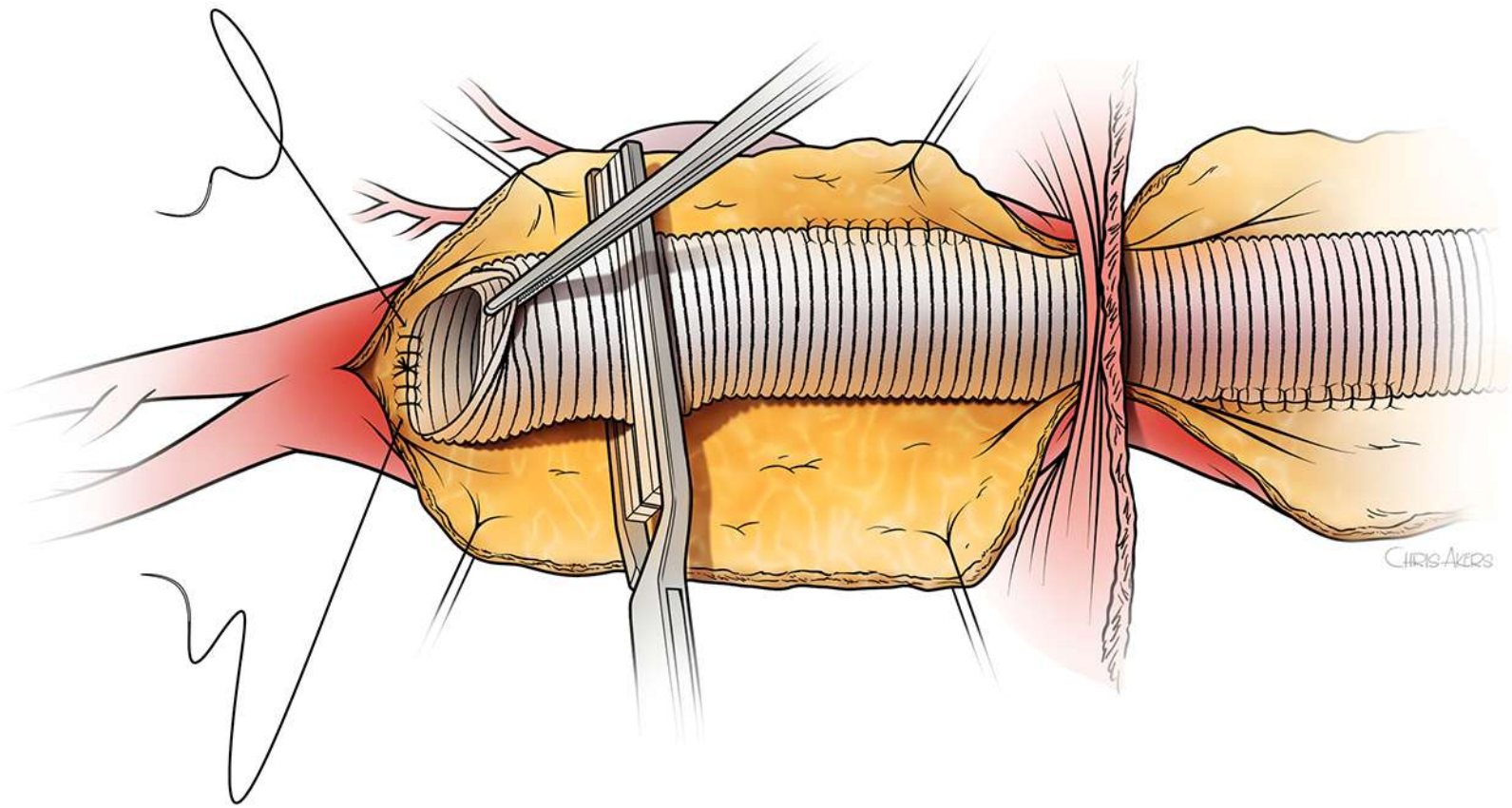


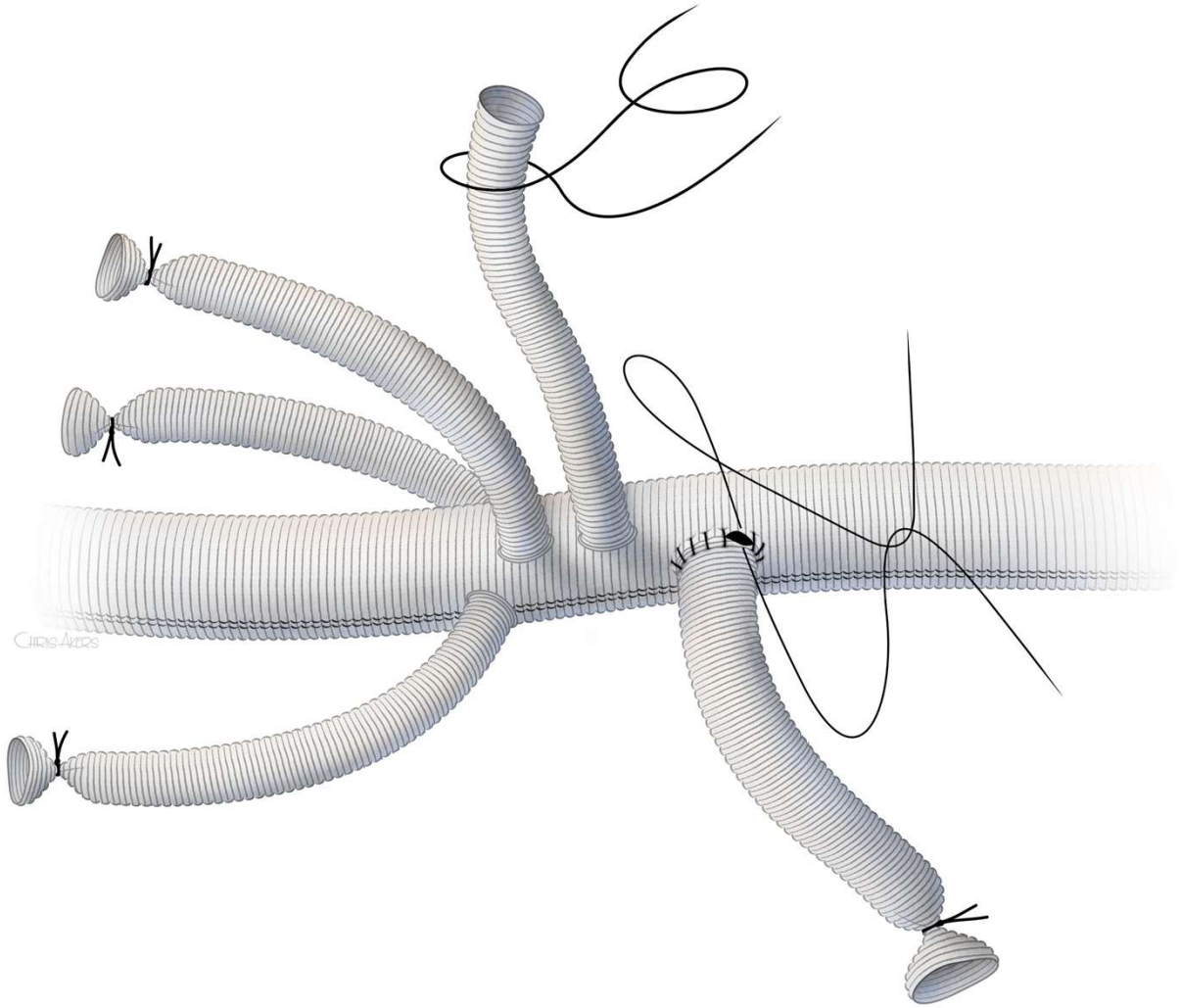


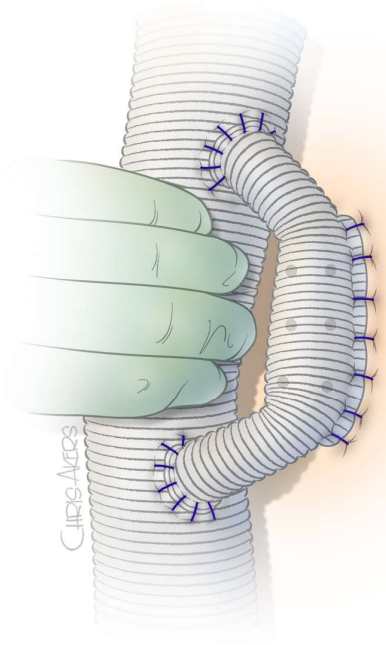
CHRIS AKERS



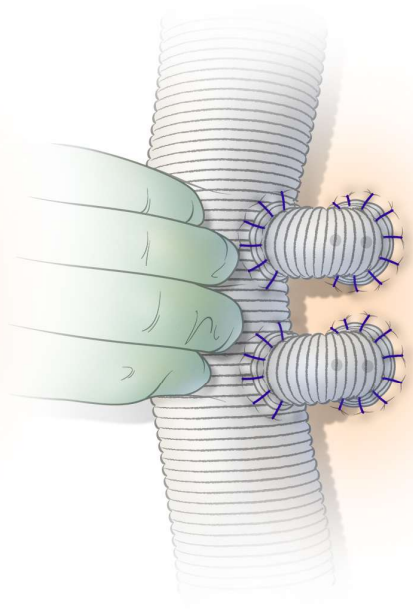
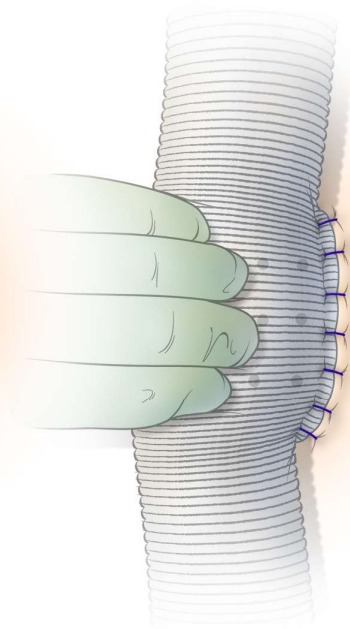
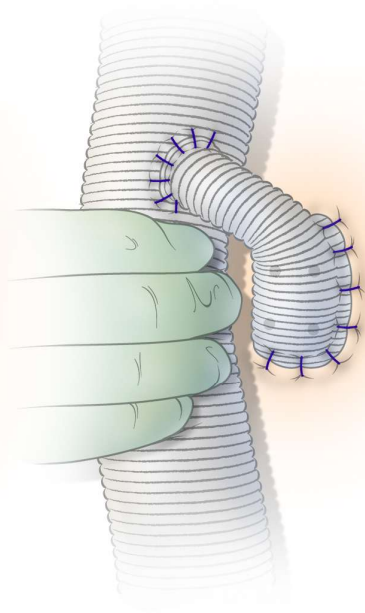
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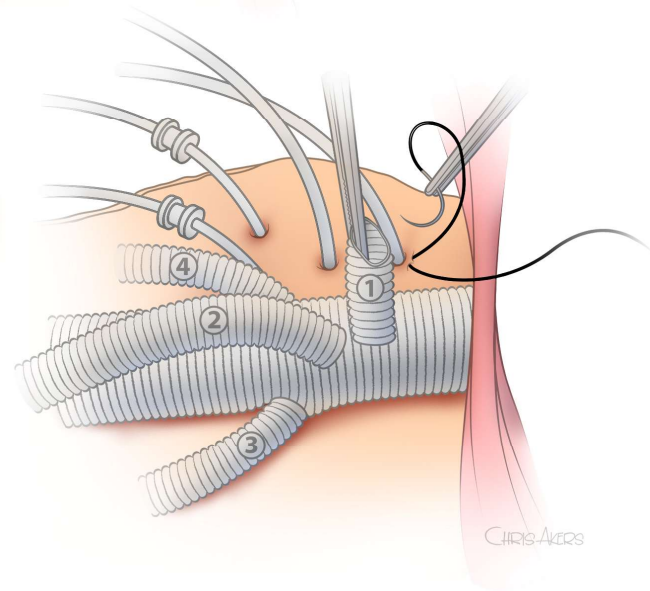
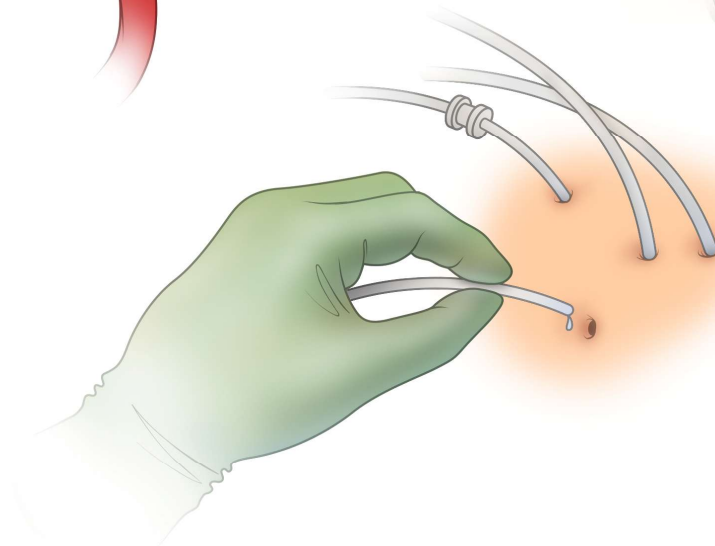
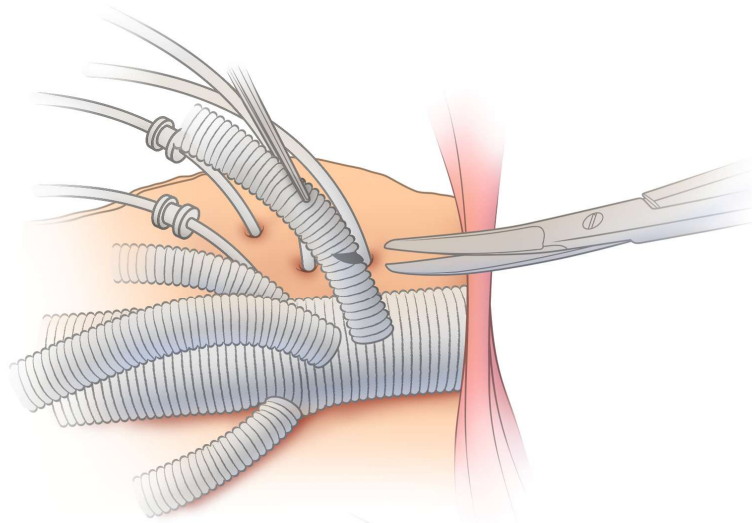
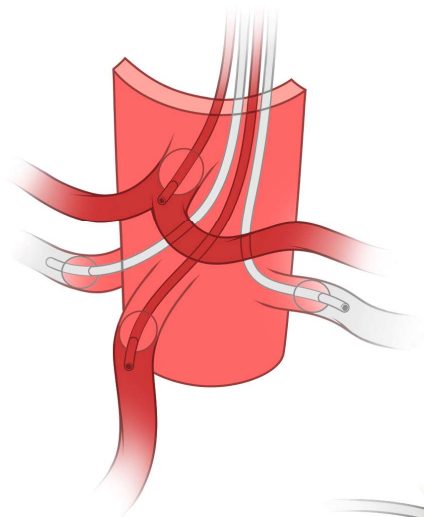




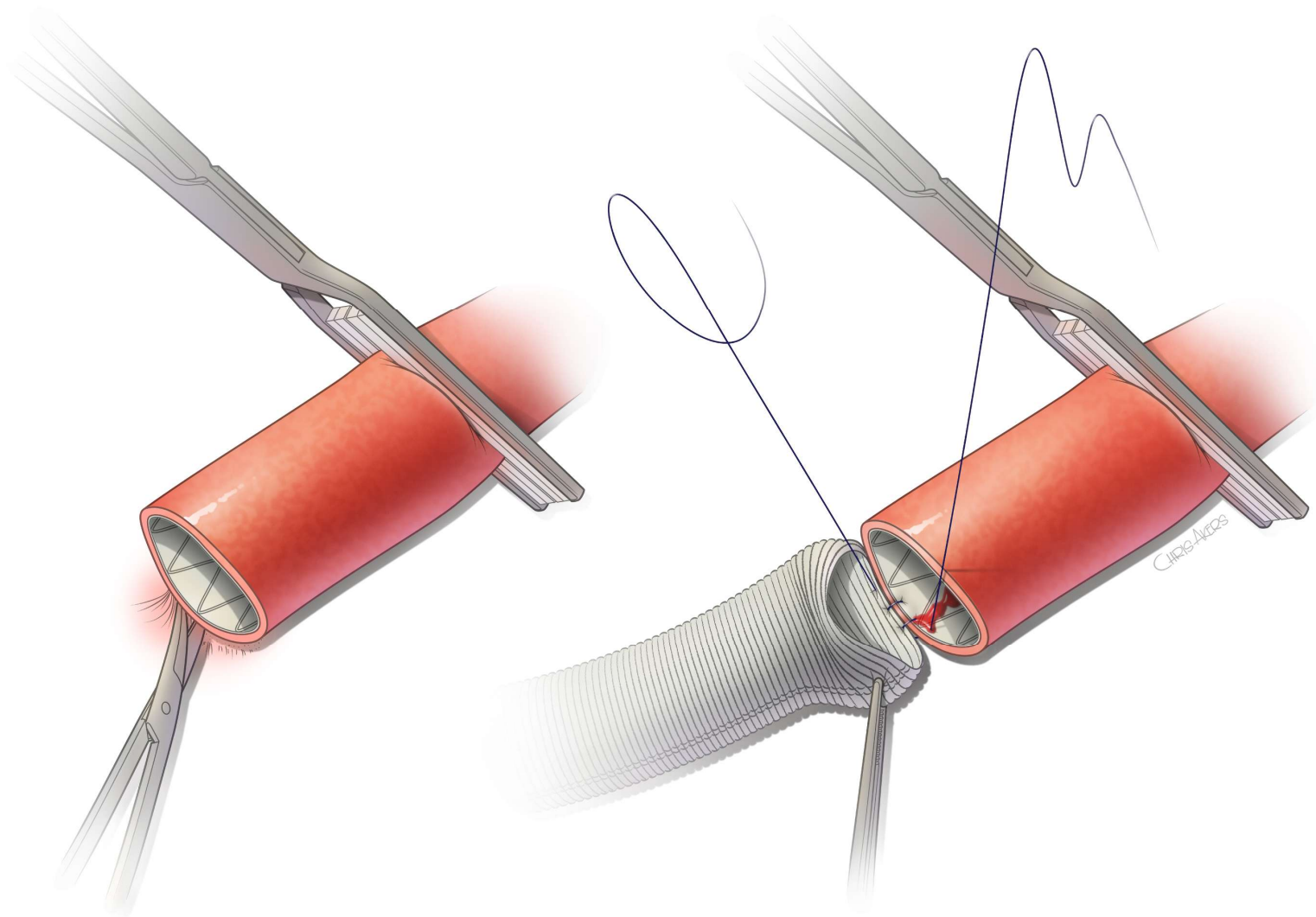


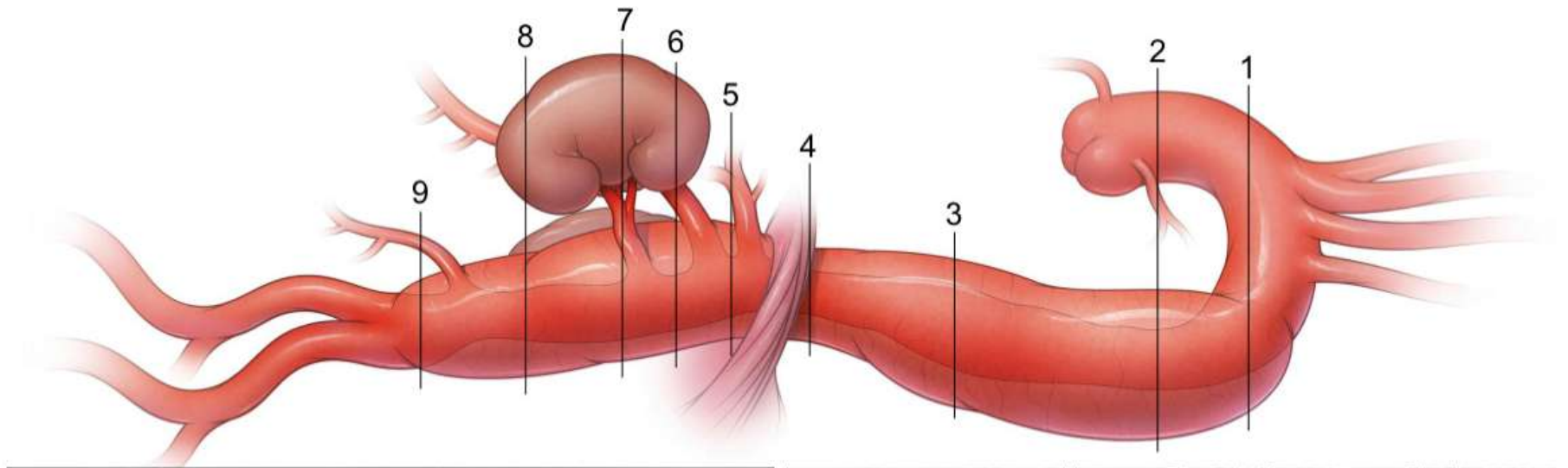
CHRIS AVEES

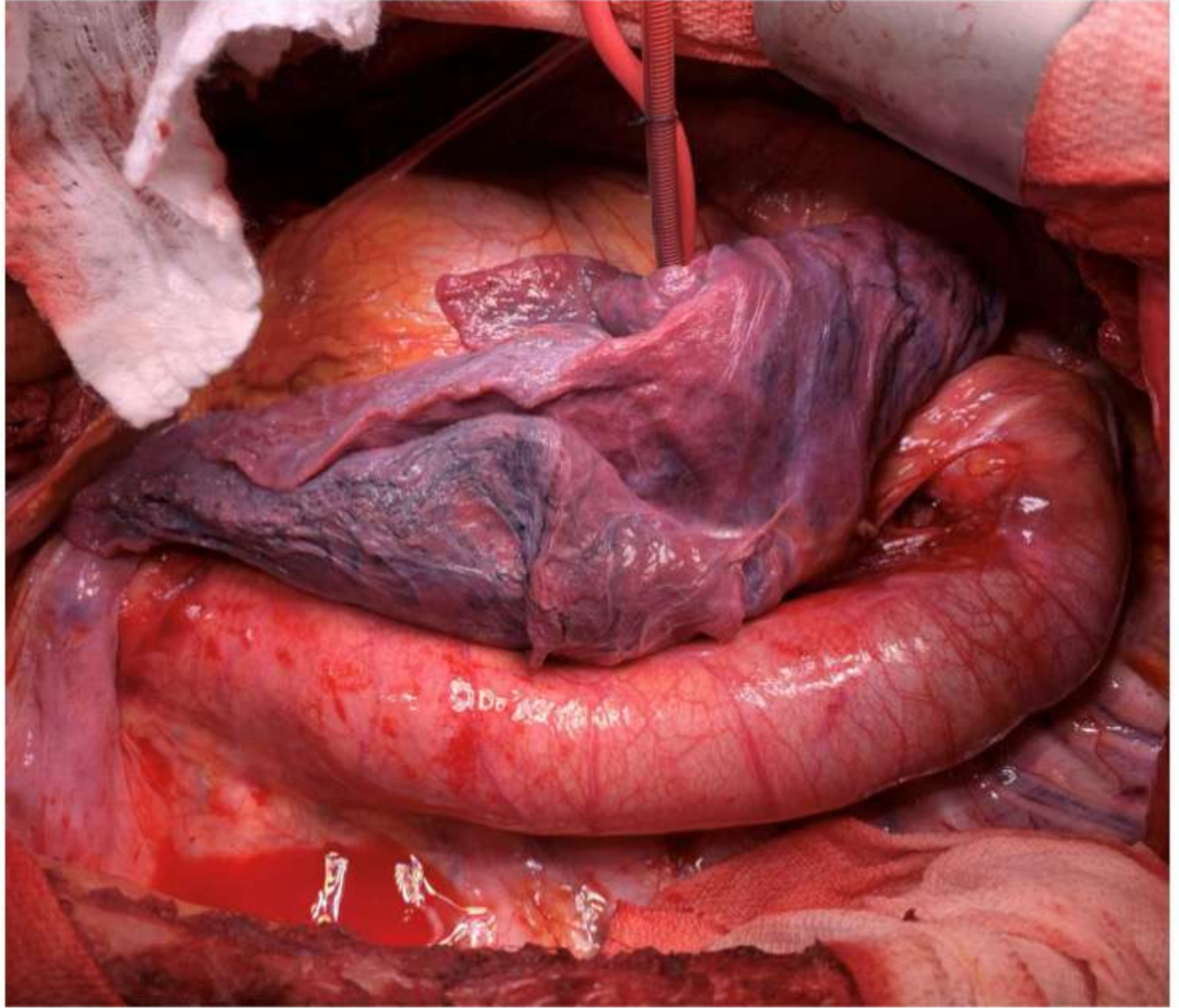
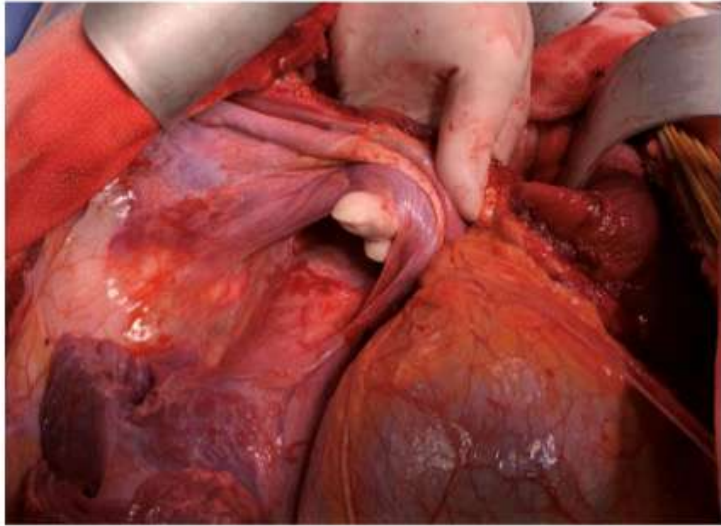
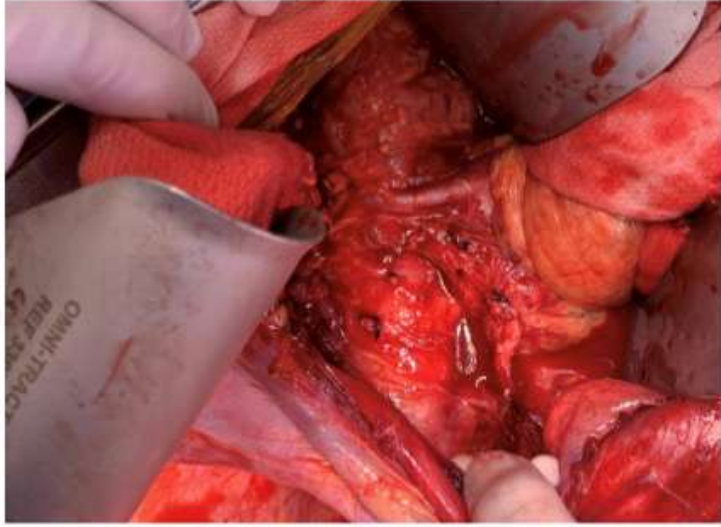


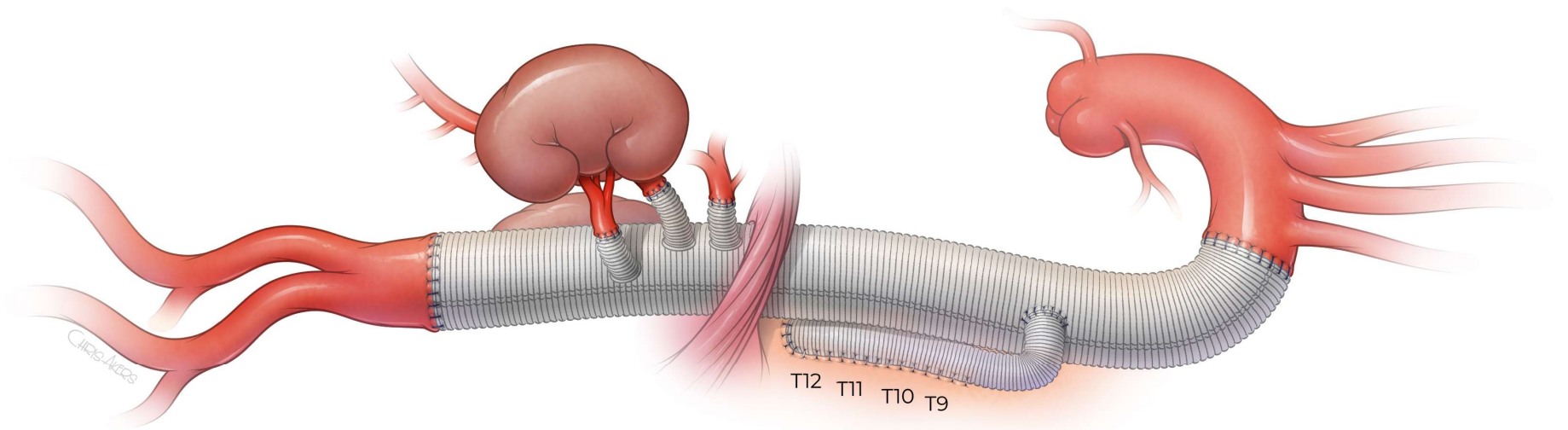


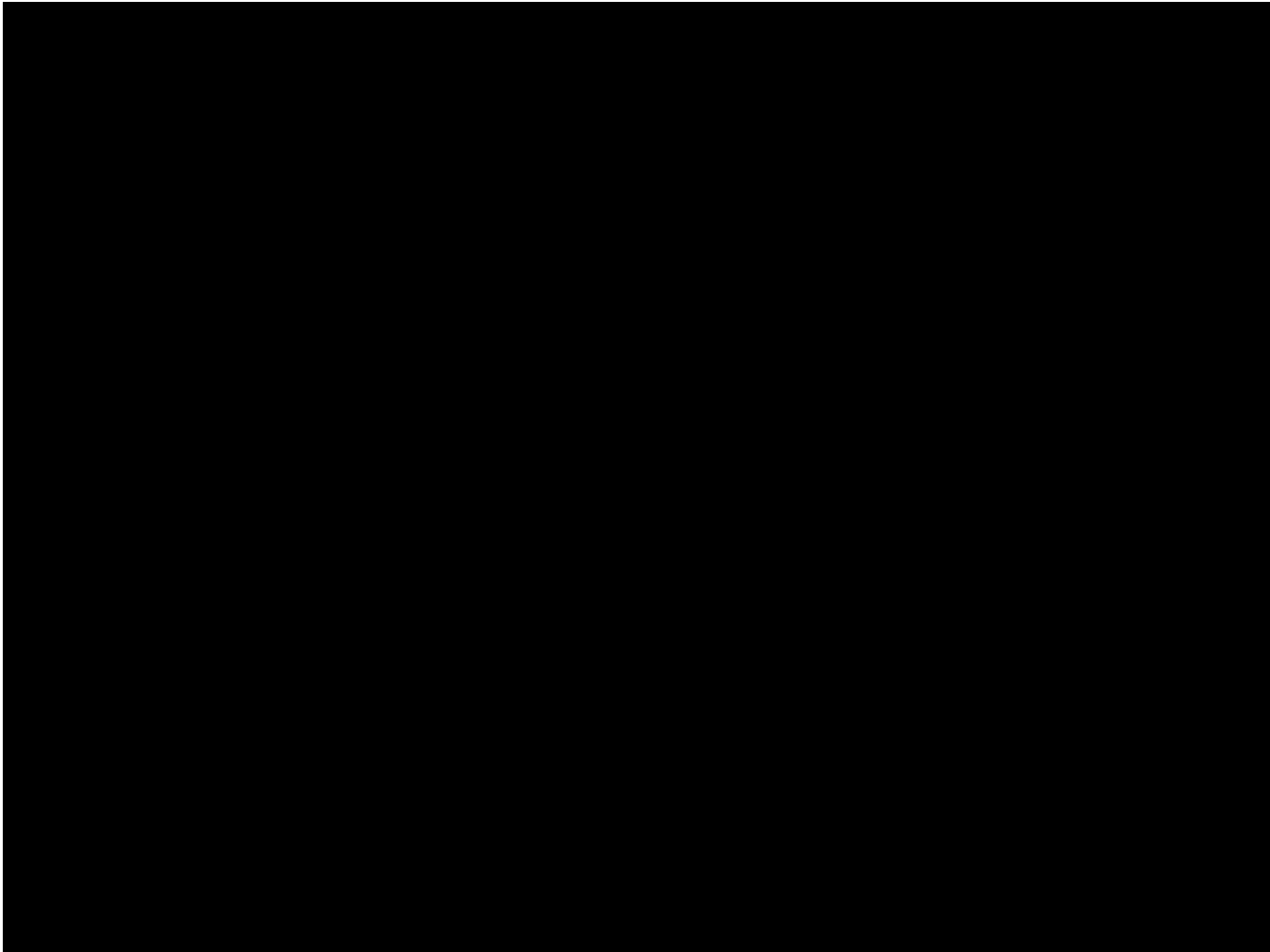
CHRIS AKERS













# Results

1999 - 2014

---

**1183** patients  **1251** thoracic or  
thoracoabdominal aortic repair

---

Median age: 60

2 / 3  1 / 3 

# Operative Factors

## Variable

---

Intercostal Artery Reattachment	39%
Pump time	44 min
Aortic Cross-Clamp Time	46 min
Adjunct use	74%

# Results

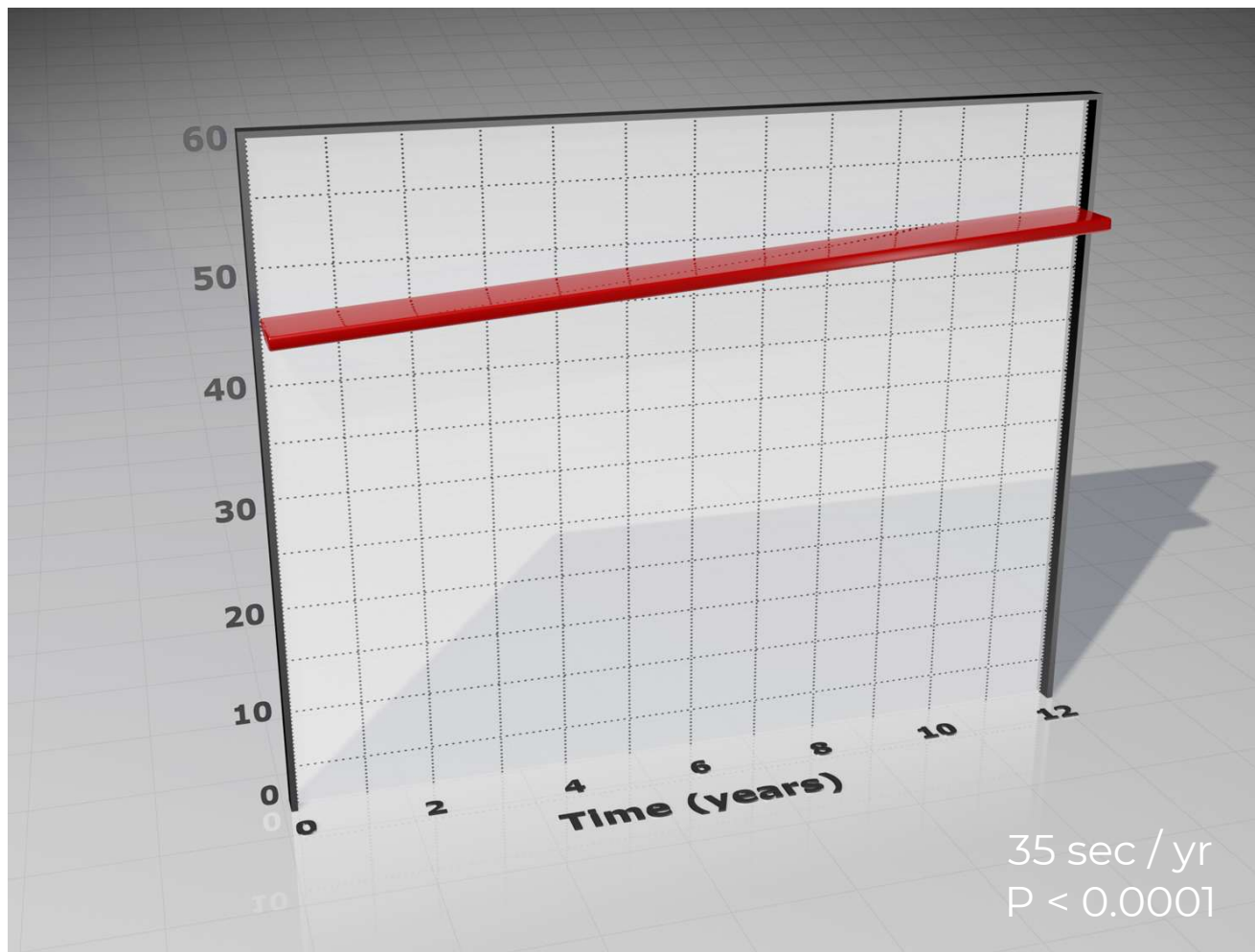
<b>Spinal Cord Ischemia</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>
Overall	79 / 1896	4.1%

# Neurologic Deficit

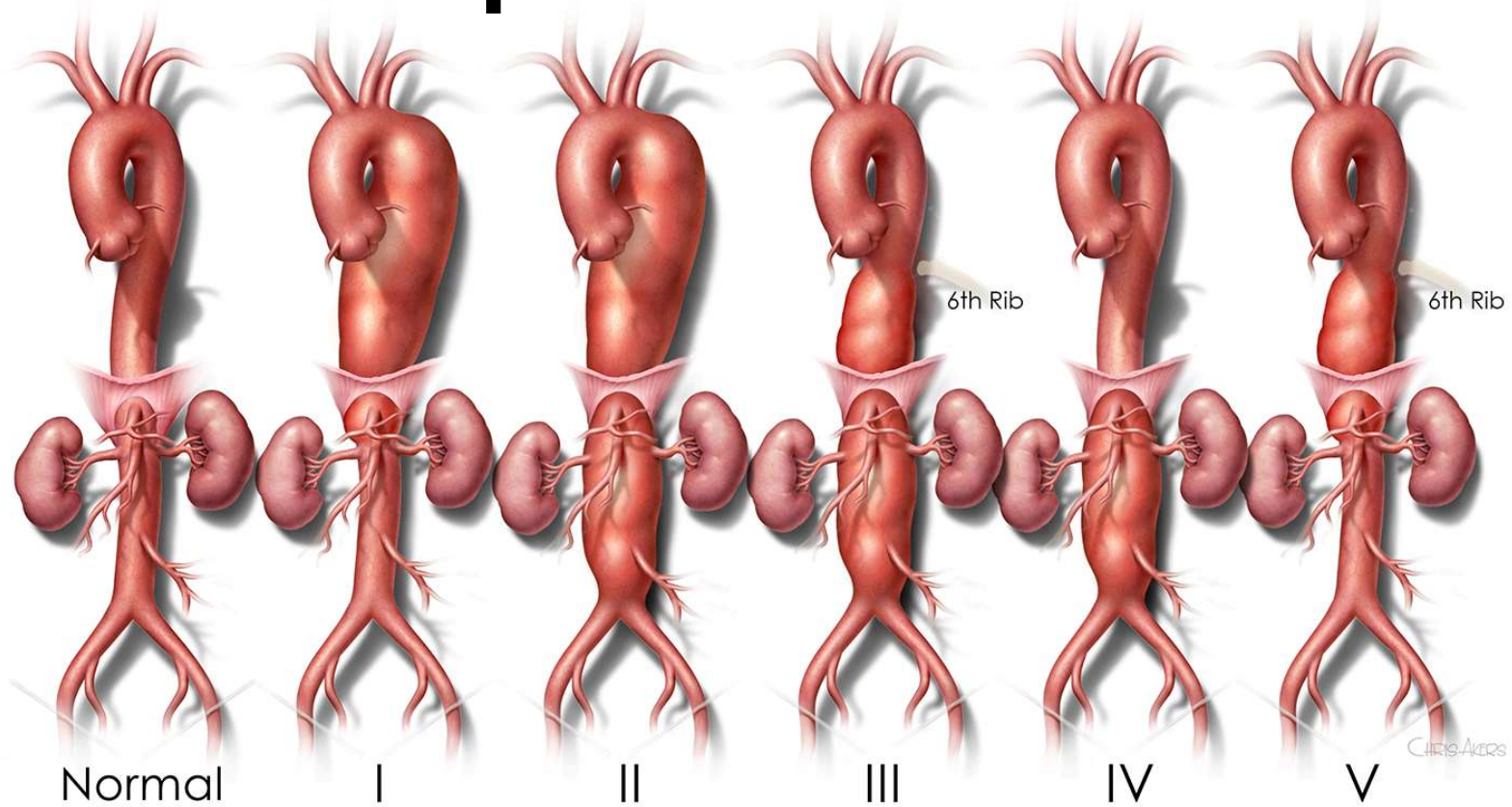
## Multiple Logistic Regression Analysis

<b>Variable</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>p</b>
TAAA Extent II	6.41	0.0001
Renal Dysfunction	2.28	0.03
(+) Adjunct	0.26	0.0004
Aortic Clamp Time	1.01	0.11

# Aortic Clamp Time



# Risk of Spinal Cord Ischemia



Clamp-&-Sew Era

15%

31%

7%

4%

**Current Era**

**<2%**

**4%**

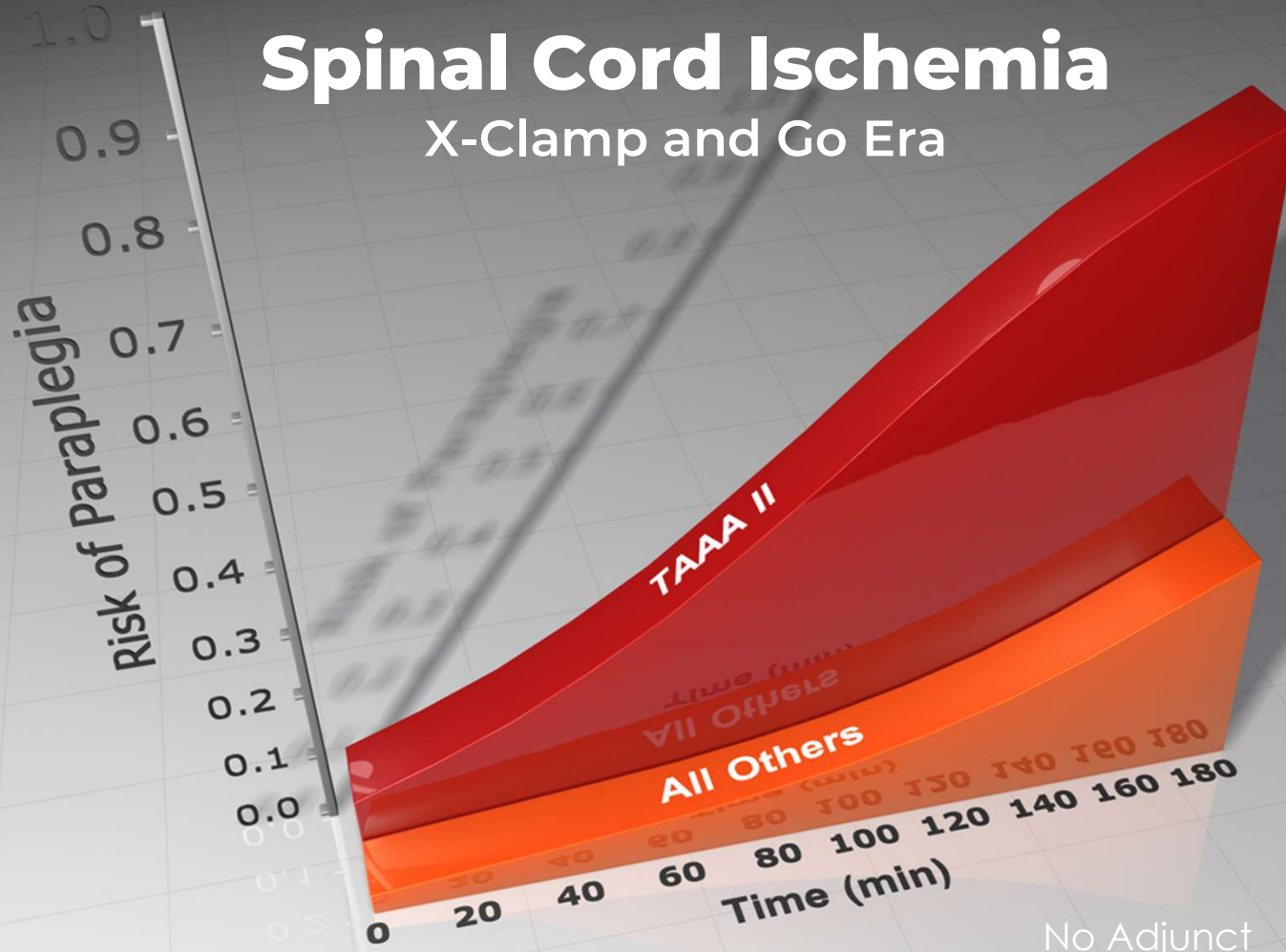
**<2%**

**<2%**

**<2%**

# Spinal Cord Ischemia

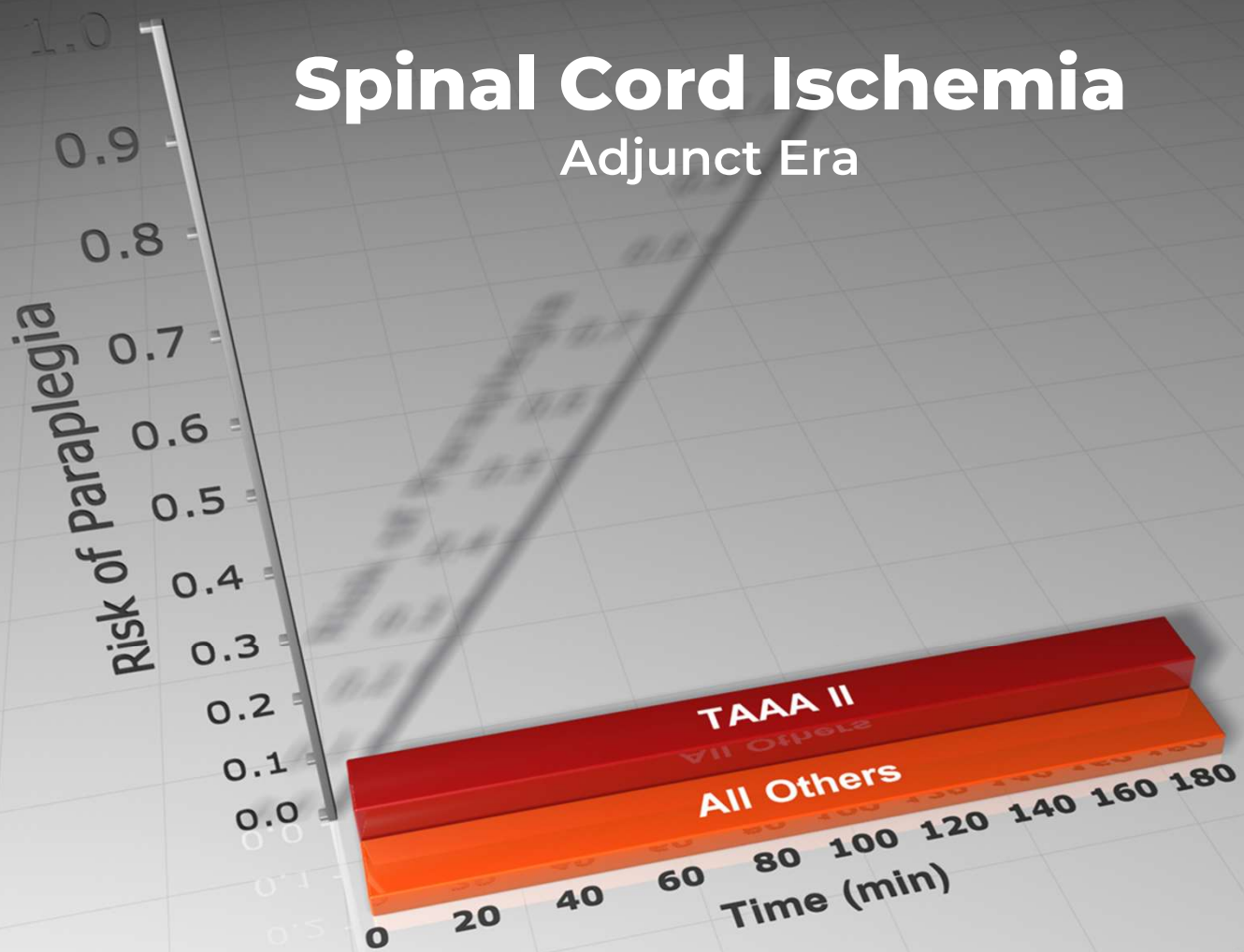
X-Clamp and Go Era



No Adjunct

# Spinal Cord Ischemia

Adjunct Era



# Thank You

HCA  Houston  
Healthcare®

