

MEDIA ALERT

Interventional Radiologists Demonstrate Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening on Capitol Hill *Widely Available Ultrasound Test Can Save Lives if Patients Have Access*

WHAT: The Society of Interventional Radiology is participating in the “Aneurysm Screening Demonstration Day” as part of the AAA Coalition to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of AAA, the 13th leading cause of death in America. Interventional radiologists, vascular surgeons and registered vascular technologists will perform screening demonstrations.

WHY: Millions of Americans suffer from some form of vascular disease and do not know it. A ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm is a life-threatening emergency that usually results in death. It is most effectively treated prior to rupture and easily detected with modern technology. Unfortunately, most AAAs are “silent killers,” so screening is essential. Diagnostic screening can prevent these deaths and is readily available across the country. However, many patients do not have access to this test because Medicare does not routinely cover AAA screening. This event will raise awareness of the importance of screening and demonstrate that AAA can be detected with a simple, fast and inexpensive ultrasound test. If detected before the aneurysm ruptures, interventional radiologists can offer patients a minimally invasive treatment with a stent graft. AAA is also treated surgically.

Through its national screening and awareness program, Legs For Life[®], the Society of Interventional Radiology has provided 46,000 people with free AAA screening for the past four years. Of those screened annually, one in four were at risk for AAA. Legs For Life[®] is the first national AAA screening program and the largest in the United States. For more information, visit www.LegsForLife.org.

WHEN & WHERE: Tuesday, December 2:

10 a.m. – Noon, Rayburn House Office Building, Gold Room, and
2 – 4 p.m., Russell Senate Office Building, Room 188

The AAA Coalition includes: Abbott Laboratories; W.L. Gore & Associates; Medtronic; SonoSite; Cook Group; Cordis/Johnson & Johnson; Otsuka; Society for Vascular Surgery; Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Society of Interventional Radiology; Society for Vascular Ultrasound; American Vascular Association; and the American College of Surgeons.

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