

Personalised external aortic root support (PEARS) using mesh to prevent aortic root expansion and aortic dissection in people with Marfan syndrome

Information for the public

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There is evidence that this procedure works and is safe enough in the short term. But there's not enough long-term evidence, and this type of procedure can cause complications. So it can only be done with special arrangements. This means you will have regular appointments afterwards to check how well it is working or if it has caused problems.

Marfan syndrome is a genetic disorder in which the large artery from the left side of the heart (the aorta) can expand to the point where the inner lining can tear, risking a fatal rupture. In this procedure, which is done under general anaesthesia, the chest is opened through the breastbone. A mesh is then wrapped around the outside of the aorta at the part closest to the heart (the aortic root). The aim is to support the aorta to stop it from expanding and reduce the risk of rupture.

The [NHS website](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

More information

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what special arrangements are.

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