

Physician Saves Patient's Life With Amazing Charts

Health maintenance guideline reminds Dr. Santhanam to perform additional test

Challenge: Difficulties dealing with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

AAA causes many deaths	▶ <i>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm was the primary cause of 10,597 deaths and a contributing cause in more than 17,215 deaths in the United States in 2009.*</i>
Men are at risk	▶ <i>AAA is the third leading cause of sudden death in men over 60.</i>
Most patients are unaware	▶ <i>AAA often occurs with no warning symptoms.</i>

* http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_aortic_aneurysm.htm

Solution: Amazing Charts EHR

Performed a standard physical exam	▶ <i>Aware of the patient's risk for AAA, Dr. Santhanam performed an abdominal exam, but did not detect anything.</i>
Saw risk-factor reminder	▶ <i>"Although I could not palpate a mass or note any unusual bruits on exam, the risk-factor reminder tilted my decision making."</i>
Ordered an ultrasound	▶ <i>"They found AAA and bilateral iliac aneurysms in his legs. It was a very serious situation, and his life was literally on the line."</i>
Patient underwent further testing and multiple surgeries	▶ <i>During testing, a thoracic aneurysm and multi-vessel heart disease was found.</i>

Results

- ✓ The surgeries were successful and the patient recovered
- ✓ Patient is grateful Dr. Santhanam uses Amazing Charts
- ✓ Patient is still under the care of Dr. Santhanam