

# Narratives of Patients Living with Aortic Aneurysm

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The purpose of this study is to describe and clarify, through narrative interviews, the experience of and illness comprehension in patients suffering from aortic aneurysm.

Two adults that were diagnosed as having chest or abdominal aortic aneurysm were chosen as informants for this study. The data gathered through interviews was then reconstructed into their life histories and analyzed qualitatively.

The results revealed that: 1) the patients' relationships with their physician was based on mutual trust and was crucial for both the patients and their families in maintaining a sense of security; 2) having information such as hospital contact information close at hand contributed to a daily feeling of security for the patients in terms of their illness, and this played a practical role as well as the role of some type of "psychological good luck charm"; and 3) the patients appeared to be able to maintain daily activities without serious anxiety despite having a life-threatening disease, if such important conditions were fulfilled.

Furthermore, when the patients' life histories were examined against the backdrop of "narrative medicine" as claimed by researcher Rita Charon, the viewpoint of "causality/contingency" was especially important. Making sense of things in a positive way in the causal explanation of the patients' stories of illness appeared to contribute strongly to their psychological well-being. This study could suggest an important point of view for proceeding with good medical care.