Midterm findings from two British studies of endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms may have limited relevance to U.S. practice because the aneurysms were relatively large and the wait for surgery was long.

The findings offer another boost to the documented efficacy and safety of endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR), which already is the preferred repair option in the United States, experts said. The findings also underscore the importance of reserving EVAR for patients with aortic anatomy that’s amenable to placement of an endovascular-repair device.

For elderly and higher-risk patients, the results “shift the balance in favor of EVAR, and many younger, lower-risk patients will now also shift toward EVAR to avoid the short-term morbidity of open repair,” said Jack L. Cronenwett, M.D., chief of vascular surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H.

COVID-19: Does it Affect CPR Rates? As Hospitals Struggle with Staff Shortages, Rescuers Step Up

A new study from the American Heart Association describes how COVID-19 has affected CPR rates in hospitals as medical staff grapples with shortages. The study found that CPR rates have dropped by 18% since the start of the pandemic, likely due to a variety of factors, including staff shortages and the need for decreased interaction.

The study, which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, analyzes CPR rates in 137 hospitals across the United States from January 1 to December 31, 2020. The findings show a significant decrease in CPR rates among in-hospital cardiac arrest patients. The authors suggest that efforts should be made to increase CPR rates in hospitals to improve outcomes for patients who experience cardiac arrest.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the study highlights the importance of CPR in improving patient outcomes and underscores the need for continued education and training for healthcare providers in this critical area of emergency care. The findings also emphasize the need for sustained efforts to improve CPR rates in hospitals to ensure optimal outcomes for patients experiencing cardiac arrest.