

Unexplained Severe Pain?

THINK AORTA

Aortic Dissection is an emergency
that is often fatal when missed

CT Scan for a definitive diagnosis

Symptoms

- Pain is the #1 symptom
- Neck, back, chest or abdomen
- Numbness or weakness in any limbs
- History of collapse

Pain characteristics can be:

- Maximal in seconds
- Migratory & transient
- Pain can be sharp, tearing, ripping

Patient Risk Factors

- Hypertension
- Aortic aneurysm
- Bicuspid aortic valve
- Familial aortic disease
- Marfans and other connective tissue disorders

Physical Examination

- Pulse deficit or vascular signs
- Neurological signs of stroke or paraplegia

Diagnostic Warning

- Chest x-ray, ECG, ultrasound & blood tests can be normal

Aortic Dissection Awareness UK in collaboration with:

Heart Research UK
Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland
The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

www.thinkaorta.org

