

Duane Stoner

*Security Guard, Great-Grandfather, Survivor*

When Duane Stoner was diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) in 2001, no one had to tell him how serious the condition was. Three years earlier, Stoner's wife of 33 years, Mae, died from a ruptured AAA. The 69-year-old security guard and great-grandfather knew the traditional repair surgery was very invasive and had a long recovery time. After discussing his options with clinicians at the Jobst Vascular Center in Toledo, Ohio, Stoner opted instead for a new, less-invasive approach called the Lifepath AAA Endovascular Graft System that had just become available as part of a U.S. clinical trial. Just days after his procedure, Stoner was released from the hospital. Three weeks later he was back to work, and today he says he's feeling great. "I'm glad I chose the Lifepath AAA device, and I'm glad I'm alive," says Stoner. So are three generations of his offspring.

Left untreated, an abdominal aortic aneurysm, or AAA, can become a potentially life-threatening condition. Traditional surgical treatments for AAA are highly invasive, but an innovative technology is providing new hope for patients.