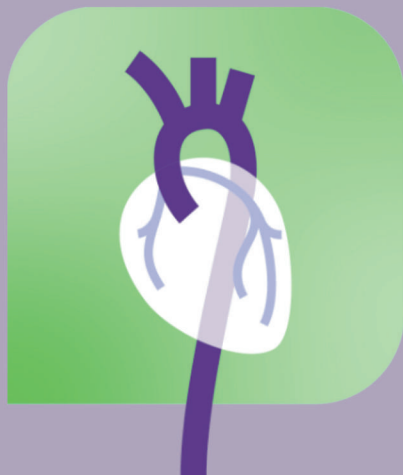




A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER: AMY YASBECK

Every year, undiagnosed and misdiagnosed aortic dissections are responsible for a staggering number of tragically avoidable deaths. Since losing John, I've devoted myself to shining a much-needed light on thoracic aortic disease.

Through genetic research, widespread education, and radical advocacy, The John Ritter Foundation and I are committed to alleviating this unnecessary suffering caused by the devastating lack of aortic awareness.
- Amy Yasbeck



GET INVOLVED

The John Ritter Research Program for Aortic and Vascular Diseases (JRRP)

If you are interested in learning more about research projects, please email:
JRRP.research@uth.tmc.edu

Aortic Dissection Collaborative

A group of stakeholders working together to identify the patient-centered priorities for research. To join the email list, sign up here:

johnritterfoundation.org/ADCollab
or email:
aorticdissection@uw.edu

Mended Hearts

JRF and Mended Hearts have joined forces to create a specialized Accredited Visitor program to educate patients and family members face-to-face and online.

mendedhearts.org

Our Partners

Aortic Hope
aorticchope.org

Genetic Aortic Disorders Association Canada
gadacanada.ca

Aortic Dissection Charitable Trust
(based in UK)
aorticdissectioncharitabletrust.org

The Marfan Foundation
marfan.org

*"I want to be remembered as just a guy who was interested in the golden thread of humanity that intertwines us all together."
-John Ritter*



The John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health™



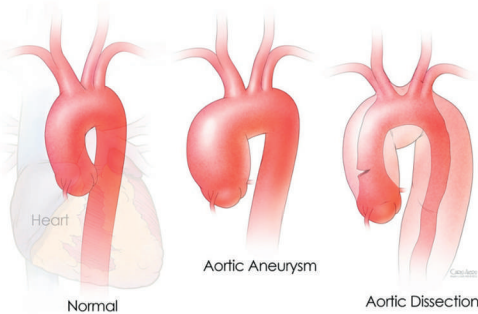
We strive to prevent premature death and suffering from thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections through research, education and advocacy.



WWW.JOHNITTERFOUNDATION.ORG

THORACIC AORTIC ANEURYSM AND DISSECTION

The aorta is our body's largest artery. Shaped like a candy cane, it carries oxygen-rich blood away from the heart to all parts of the body. Major problems of the thoracic aorta include aneurysm, dissection, and rupture of any part of the aorta in the chest. If left undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, these conditions can be extremely life threatening.



ANEURYSM VS. DISSECTION

A thoracic aortic aneurysm is a balloon-like bulge in the chest portion of the aorta. Aneurysms can tear (dissect) or rupture if not properly diagnosed and managed. Imaging is the only way to identify an aneurysm.

A thoracic aortic dissection is a serious condition in which a tear occurs in the inner layer of the aorta. Blood rushes through the tear, causing the inner and middle layers of the aorta to split (dissect). Early diagnosis and treatment are critical.

ARE YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONES AT RISK?



Thoracic aortic dissection is considered rare. The general public and medical community are often misinformed or lack resources to understand this condition.

Join us to advocate and educate.

RISK FACTORS

- Family history of thoracic aortic aneurysm or dissection
- Certain genetic conditions
- Bicuspid aortic valve
- Uncontrolled high blood pressure



- Stimulant or illicit drug use
- High intensity weight lifting
- Other risk factors may apply

Read the Ritter Rules here:



EARLY AND PROACTIVE TREATMENT SAVES LIVES

Imaging



About 20% of people with thoracic aortic aneurysm or dissection will have a first-degree relative who also has aortic disease. If you are an at-risk family member you should undergo imaging of your aorta. If you are not sure if you are at risk discuss your family history with a clinician. If an aortic aneurysm is found, treatment is available.

Genetics

Patients with thoracic aortic aneurysms or dissections should determine with a genetic professional if testing is right for them. Although genetic evaluation can provide answers for many, researchers are working to identify additional risk factors.



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