Evidence-Based Medicine quick reference tool: DynaMed Plus

DynaMed is a clinical reference tool created by physicians for physicians and other healthcare professionals for use primarily at the ‘point-of-care.’ With clinically organized summaries for more than 3000 topics, DynaMed is the only evidence-based reference shown to answer most clinical questions during practice. ([http://www.dynamed.com/home/about](http://www.dynamed.com/home/about))

Case A: Abdominal Aortic Aneurism

You screen your patient, a 65-year-old, former smoker for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) based on the US Preventive Services Task Force guidelines and discover a 4.4 cm infra renal AAA. He now comes to you for advice regarding further management. Use DynaMed to find the best evidence to support your opinion. We encourage you to browse the various sections related to the topic; I encourage you to recognize recent updates are often pushed to the top of the description section.

You ask the following questions:

1. At what size should I refer to this patient for vascular surgery?
2. By what method should I monitor his aneurysm, i.e. Is ultrasound superior to CAT scan or MRI in monitoring AAA as it relates to cost, accuracy or harm?
3. At what interval should you monitor this aneurysm?

After some follow-up, his aneurysm is now at 5.2 cm and you make a referral. The vascular surgeon has recommended endovascular repair the patient returns for your opinion as to whether this option is well proven in the better choice than open repair in the short run or long run. Identify evidence to support your opinion.

1. What are the benefits and risks comparing the two treatments?
   a. Short-term complications
   b. Long-term risk
2. What would you tell him?