2	Endovascular Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair, compared with Infrarenal
3	Fixation.
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14	Keywords: EVAR, renal function, suprarenal fixation
15	

Suprarenal Fixation is associated with Worse Midterm Renal Function after

#### 1 ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 observational study
- 5

6	Key Findings:	EVAR	with a	suprarenal	fixation	device	is
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- 7 an independent predictor of midterm renal function
- 8 decline. After propensity score matching, a comparison of
- 9 renal outcomes in 87 pairs who underwent EVAR with
- 10 supra-(SR) and infrarenal (IR) endograft fixation devices
- 11 was performed. EVAR with SR endograft fixation is
- 12 associated with worse outcomes for midterm renal
- 13 function.
- 14
- 15 Take home Message: EVAR with suprarenal endograft
- 16 fixation is an independent predictor of midterm renal
- 17 function decline.
- 18
- 19 <u>Table of Contents Summary</u>
  20
- 21 EVAR with suprarenal endograft fixation is associated
- 22 with worse outcomes for midterm renal function in this

1 retrospective observational study of 237 patients who

2 underwent EVAR.

3

## 4 ABSTRACT

Introduction: Several reports have indicated that suprarenal fixation may impair renal
function after endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair (EVAR). However, most
were short-term or at most, 1-year observational studies; therefore, the midterm effects
on renal function remain unclear. This study aimed to identify predictors of midterm renal
dysfunction after EVAR and compare renal outcomes in patients after EVAR with supraand infrarenal fixation.

Methods: A total of 467 patients who underwent EVAR of nonruptured infrarenal 11 12 abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) between 2007 and 2014 were reviewed in a 13 prospectively collected database. Patients on hemodialysis at baseline were excluded. 14 Among the remaining patients, those with 3-year laboratory testing were included in this 15 study. Patients who developed acute kidney injury (AKI) were excluded from the late 16 renal function estimation. Predictors of 3-year renal function decline were estimated 17 using logistic regression analysis. In addition, patients undergoing EVAR with infra- (IR 18 group) and suprarenal fixation devices (SR group) were propensity matched by age, sex, 19 baseline renal function, baseline aneurysm diameter, comorbidities, smoking habits, and 20 regular use of medicines that may act on kidney function. Changes in renal function after 21 surgery were compared between the IR group and the SR group.

1	Results: During the study period, 237 patients (102 IRs and 135 SRs) were followed up
2	with laboratory testing 3 years postsurgery. Logistic regression analysis revealed that the
3	use of a suprarenal fixation device was independently predictive of a more than 20%
4	decrease in the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) 3 years after EVAR (OR, 2.06;
5	95% CI, 1.18-3.58) [ $p = .011$ ]. Eleven patients who developed AKI (1 IR and 10 SRs)
6	were excluded from the subsequent analysis. After propensity score matching, 87 pairs
7	were selected (mean age; $77.2 \pm 6.3$ years and 151 males (86.8%)). The mean follow-up
8	duration was 5.5 $\pm$ 1.8 years. In the SR group, eGFR at 3 years after surgery decreased
9	significantly more than that in the IR group (mean 17.8% vs 11.6%, respectively) [ $p$
10	=.034].

11 Conclusion: This study suggests that compared with EVAR with infrarenal endograft
12 fixation, EVAR with suprarenal endograft fixation is associated with worse outcomes for
13 midterm renal function.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

2	Endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) has become a standard treatment for
3	abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) and has significantly improved short-term outcomes
4	compared with open surgical repair (OSR). <sup>1-3</sup> However, this treatment involves several
5	problems, such as higher rates of reintervention, sac enlargement and rupture, and late
6	loss of the early survival benefit. <sup>4–8</sup> While an association between renal function decline
7	(RFD) and mortality has been reported, <sup>9</sup> the long-term decline in renal function is more
8	severe after EVAR than after OSR. <sup>10</sup>
9	Previous studies reported that suprarenal (SR) fixation increases the risk of
10	post-EVAR renal impairment. <sup>11–13</sup> Although there are three meta-analyses comparing the
11	effect of fixation type on renal function, two of them did not show a statistically
12	significant difference between SR fixation and infrarenal (IR) fixation of endografts. <sup>13–15</sup>
13	In addition, most of the included studies were short-term observational studies, and each
14	included small numbers of patients with highly variable definitions of RFD. Thus,
15	conclusions of previous meta-analyses should be treated with caution, and further study
16	about the influence of SR fixation on renal outcomes, especially over longer periods, is
17	needed.
18	This study aimed to identify predictors of midterm renal dysfunction after
19	EVAR and to compare renal outcomes in patients after EVAR with SR and IR fixation.
20	

21 METHODS

22 Study population

1	Patients who underwent elective EVAR for an infrarenal AAA between June
2	2007 and December 2014 at our institution were reviewed. Of these, patients followed up
3	with laboratory testing 3 years after surgery were included in this study. All patients
4	provided written informed consent for their information to be recorded in a prospective
5	collection database and met the inclusion criteria of the present study. The indication for
6	repair was AAA $\geq$ 5 cm in diameter, a rapidly growing aneurysm ( $\geq$ 5 mm per 6 months),
7	and saccular aneurysm. In principle, EVAR was applied to patients over 75 years of age
8	or patients at high risk with OSR even under 75 years of age. Patients on hemodialysis at
9	baseline, patients with ruptured or infected aneurysm, and patients requiring concomitant
10	procedures to the renal artery, such as stenting, were excluded from this study. The
11	institutional review board approved this study and the need for individual patient consent
12	was waved since all data were obtained for routine clinical care.

#### 14 Study and follow-up protocol

15 Patient baseline demographics, comorbidities, medications, serum creatinine, 16 estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), operative details, and outcomes were 17 collected. All patients underwent a laboratory test and computed tomography 18 angiography (CTA) with three-dimensional reconstruction before surgery. A standard 19 follow-up protocol at 30 days, 3, 6 and 12 months after surgery and annually thereafter, 20 was applied to the study cohort (Laboratory tests were applied as appropriate by the 21 physician's discretion). Patients underwent CTAs at 3, 6, and 12 months, and annually 22 thereafter if renal function permitted. Outpatients with an eGFR less than 50 ml/min/1.73 1 m<sup>2</sup> were administered 200 ml of 0.9% saline 1 hour before CTA. Any antiplatelets was
2 not added after EVAR in our institution.

3

## 4 **Procedures**

The following endografts were used in this study: 70 Zenith (COOK Medical, 5 6 Bloomington, IN), 56 Endurant/Talent (Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN), 7 Incraft (Cordis 7 Corp, Bridgewater, NJ) (these three endografts were defined as endografts with SR 8 fixation), 87 Excluder (W.L. Gore and Associates, Flagstaff, AZ), 12 Powerlink 9 (Endologix, Irvine, CA), and 1 Aorfix (Lombard Medical, Irvine, CA) (these three were 10 defined as the endografts with IR fixation). All procedures were performed in a fully 11 equipped operating room with the patients under regional or general anesthesia and with fluoroscopic guidance. Patients with eGFR less than 50 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> were 12 13 administered 0.9% saline at 1 ml/kg/hour 24 hours before EVAR. Metformin was 14 discontinued 2 days before EVAR and was not restarted until 2 days after surgery. 15 Perioperative administration of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) was 16 avoided for patients with eGFR less than 50 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.

17

## 18 **Definitions**

Preoperative coronary artery disease (CAD) was defined as an abnormal result
on a coronary angiogram and a history of myocardial infarction or open or percutaneous
coronary artery revascularization. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was
identified on pulmonary function studies or under active medication. Hypertension (HT),

1	dyslipidemia (DL), and diabetes were identified in patients undergoing active medical
2	treatment or diet modification. Cerebrovascular disease (CVD) was defined as a history
3	of stroke, transient ischemic attack, or carotid intervention.
4	Diagnosis of acute kidney injury (AKI) was defined as an absolute increase in
5	serum creatinine (Cr) of more than or equal to 0.3 mg/dl or a percent increase in serum
6	Cr of more than or equal to 50% in the perioperative period according to the Acute Kidney
7	Injury Network criteria (KDIGO; <u>www.kdigo.org</u> ).
8	For the calculation of the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), the
9	revised equation for the eGFR from serum Cr in Japan was used (eGFR (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )
10	= 194 x serum $Cre^{-1.094}$ x Age <sup>-0.287</sup> x 0.739 (if female)). <sup>16</sup>
11	The midterm RFD was defined as a percent decrease in eGFR at the 3-year
12	follow-up of more than 20% compared with the baseline eGFR <sup>17</sup> or a newly introduced
13	hemodialysis.
14	
15	Data analysis
16	All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS statistical software, version
17	24 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY). For comparisons, categorical variables were analyzed
18	using a chi-square test or Fisher's exact test, as appropriate. Continuous variables were
19	analyzed using Student's t-test or the Mann-Whitney test, as appropriate. Logistic
20	regression analysis was applied for univariate and multivariate analyses of risk factors of
21	the midterm RFD.

1	Patients undergoing EVAR with IR fixation devices were matched to patients
2	undergoing EVAR with SR fixation devices according to their propensity scores, which
3	were estimated using the following covariates: age, sex, baseline renal function, baseline
4	aneurysm diameter, comorbidities, smoking habits, regular use of medicines that may act
5	on kidney function, and the number of times contrast-enhanced CT scans were performed.
6	After the matching, 87 pairs were selected and compared. All $p$ values were two-sided,
7	with $p < 0.05$ regarded as indicative of statistical significance.

#### 9 **RESULTS**

#### **10** Patient characteristics and general outcomes

11 A total of 467 patients who underwent EVAR for infrarenal AAAs were 12 identified during the study period. Of these, 237 patients were included in this study (11 13 patients were excluded due to undergoing hemodialysis at baseline, one was due to a 14 concomitant renal stenting during EVAR, 5 were due to repair with only aortic extenders, 15 and 213 were excluded due to a lack of laboratory data at 3 years after surgery). Of the 16 213 patients excluded due to a lack of data, 32 patients died within 3 years. 5 patients of 17 them developed RFD (>20% decrease in eGFR compared with baseline eGFR) while 18 living, and all 5 patients underwent EVAR with an SR fixation device. In the excluded 19 patient cohort, there were 115 patients (54.0%) in the SR group, and 98 patients (46.0%) 20 in the IR group, respectively and the proportion of fixation types was similar to the study 21 cohort (p = .53). In terms of the baseline renal function, there was no significant 22 differences between the study cohort and the excluded patient cohort in serum Cr (1.00  $\pm$ 

0.37 mg/dl vs 0.97 ± 0.44 mg/dl, p = .45) and eGFR (60.0 ± 18.1 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> vs 61.2
 ± 20.5 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>, p = .52) Table 1 shows the demographics and characteristics of
 the study cohorts. The mean follow-up duration was 5.2 ± 1.8 years.

4

#### 5

## Risk factors of midterm renal function decline

6 99 (41.8%) of 237 patients (102 IRs and 135 SRs) developed the midterm RFDs. 7 Of those, 33 patients were in IR group and 66 were in SR group, respectively. We 8 examined the predictors of a >20% decrease in eGFR 3 years after surgery in the overall 9 cohort of included patients. Univariate analysis revealed that SR fixation (odds ratio [OR]: 2.00; 95% confidence interval [CI]:1.17 to 3.41) [p = 0.011] and AKI (OR: 4.00; 10 11 95% CI: 1.03 to 15.5) [p = 0.045] were the predictors for RFD 3 years postoperatively. 12 Sex, age, patient comorbidities, baseline aneurysm diameter, and baseline renal function 13 did not show significant associations with the midterm RFD. In addition, SR fixation was 14 the unique independent predictor of midterm RFD by multivariate analysis (Table 2). 15

#### 16 Renal outcomes

17 Eleven patients developed AKIs perioperatively. AKI occurred significantly 18 more frequently in the SR group than in the IR group [p = 0.026] (**Table 3**). Patients who 19 developed AKI were excluded before the propensity score matching in order to accurately 20 compare renal function changes between the two groups in the chronic phase. Four 21 patients (two patients in each group) received newly introduced hemodialysis within three 22 years after surgery. According to the results of risk factor analysis, we compared the 1 impact of fixation type on the midterm outcomes of renal function. In the original 2 (unmatched) cohort, male sex and a larger amount of contrast medium were significantly 3 more prevalent in patients in the SR group. The demographics of the patients matched 4 with propensity scores are shown in **Table 3**; 87 patients in each group were matched. In 5 this matched cohort, previously reported risk factors of RFD after EVAR, such as the 6 baseline renal function or the number of times contrast medium was applied, were similar 7 in both the IR group and the SR group. Age, other comorbidities, smoking habits, and 8 regularly used medicines were also comparable between the two fixation types in the 9 matched cohort.

10 eGFR changes were also compared in the matched cohort. The changes in eGFR from baseline in patients who underwent EVAR were  $-4.7 \pm 7.6$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> 11 in the IR group vs  $-5.9 \pm 8.6$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> in the SR group at 12 months (p = .55); -6.8 12  $\pm$  8.3 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> vs -8.4  $\pm$  11.6 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> at 24 months (p = .48); and -7.3  $\pm$ 13 10.3 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> vs -11.2  $\pm$  14.1 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> at 36 months (p = .037). RFD was 14 15 analyzed by calculating the % decrease in eGFR at each time point compared with the 16 baseline (preoperative) eGFR. The % decrease in eGFR in the SR group gradually 17 increased year by year and reached a statistical difference at 3 years after surgery 18 compared with the IR group (mean 17.8% vs 11.6%, respectively) [p = .034] (Figure 1). 19

20 DISCUSSION

This study demonstrated that compared with infrarenal endograft fixation,
 suprarenal endograft fixation is the unique predictor of RFD after EVAR and significantly
 associated with midterm renal function decline.

4 Although some reports focused on the change in renal function after EVAR, the definition of renal dysfunction varies between studies.<sup>13</sup> For example, the definition 5 6 of renal dysfunction was a simple increase in serum Cr in some studies, and others defined 7 RFD as a decrease in eGFR. In addition, the rate of change in either the Cr or eGFR value 8 also varies. Because AKI is defined by the Acute Kidney Injury Network criteria 9 (KDIGO; www.kdigo.org) and the definition is therefore clear, most of the predictor 10 analysis of renal deterioration after EVAR focused on 30-day renal dysfunction. However, 11 in the chronic stage, there is little evidence of the extent to which renal function 12 deterioration after surgery affects patients' prognosis. In particular, Cr values do not 13 reflect accurate kidney function, and defining an increase in serum Cr as renal function 14 impairment in the chronic stage seems to be problematic.

Some studies have been similar to this study in terms of using eGFR for kidney
function evaluation. Unlike those studies, we used the Japanese equation for the
estimation of GFR, whose accuracy has been proven in a large population study.<sup>16</sup>

In this study, we identified that SR fixation is the unique predictor of midterm
RFD. Furthermore, to minimize the influence of factors that might impact renal
outcomes, the patients' backgrounds were adjusted using propensity score matching,
followed by comparison of the midterm renal outcomes between the IR group and the

SR group. This result demonstrated that renal function was significantly more impaired
 in the SR group than in the IR group.

- 3 There are several reports on SR versus IR stent grafts and renal outcomes. One 4 systematic review and meta-analyses on this topic found adverse effects of SR fixation on renal function.<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, others did not identify significant differences.<sup>14,15</sup> 5 6 Meta-analyses on this topic have considerable problems with their methods. Since the 7 definitions of RFD were different in each study, it is impossible to review them as one. 8 Another problem is that the time points of the renal outcomes were quite different in each 9 study. In addition, most of their study periods were short. The authors concluded that the 10 adverse effect of SR fixation on renal outcomes disappeared when sophisticated statistical modeling was performed to account for study heterogeneity.<sup>15</sup> 11
- A few studies investigated the effects of SR fixation on mid- to long-term renal outcomes after EVAR.<sup>18,19</sup> However, study populations were small, and further data are needed. In addition, the definition of renal deterioration in the chronic stage is not clear. For example, there is little evidence indicating whether a 20% reduction in eGFR, which was the definition of RFD in this study, will lead to a worse result in the future.
- Although direct association between AKI and RFD at 3 years was not detected
  in this study, the lack of an independent association must have been due to the use of a
  less-powered analysis. There was an apparent difference in the incidence of AKI between
  the IR group and the SR group. Therefore, patients who developed AKI were excluded
  from the comparison of late renal function between the two groups

1	Several mechanisms that cause renal function deterioration after EVAR with
2	SR fixation have been implicated. First, microembolization may occur during
3	endovascular manipulations and cause localized ischemia of the renal parenchyma. <sup>20</sup>
4	Second, the difference in patient selection may cause a difference in renal deterioration.
5	Shorter neck length, increased angulation, and larger diameter are generally more
6	common in patients treated with SR grafts. Fairman et al. indicated that this anatomical
7	hostility increases the rate of renal complications. <sup>21</sup> However, other studies have
8	suggested that complicated necks do not result in adverse outcomes. <sup>22</sup> Only one factor
9	for baseline aneurysm diameter was incorporated in this study, and that factor was not
10	associated with renal outcome. Other morphological factors were not incorporated in
11	this study. Third, functional renal artery stenosis may be caused by transrenal stent
12	struts. <sup>23</sup> However, others have shown no deleterious effect on renal artery morphology
13	and function. <sup>24</sup> Fourth, contrast medium, which has a toxic effect on tubular cells, <sup>25</sup> is
14	administered intraoperatively and repeatedly in serial CTAs during follow-up. Gray DE
15	et al. reported that it is not the type of endograft fixation, but repeated administration of
16	contrast medium that causes renal function deterioration. <sup>17</sup> In contrast, the number of
17	times contrast-enhanced CT scans were administered was not associated with the
18	midterm RFD in this study. However, we do not have accurate information on how
19	many times patients were exposed to contrast medium use during this study period
20	because patients in Japan can easily access any hospital and are able to undergo
21	examinations with contrast medium. Thus, the insufficient information on contrast
22	medium exposure may have some impact on the study results.

1	There are several limitations of this study. First, this is a nonrandomized
2	retrospective observational study. Obviously, there are numerous selection biases in the
3	indication for the endograft choice, particularly owing to anatomical factors. Patients
4	treated with SR endografts appear to have shorter neck anatomy, and this more hostile
5	morphology may contribute to a higher rate of RFD. We have not incorporated these
6	factors into the analyses in this study. Only baseline aneurysm diameter was incorporated,
7	and there was no statistical significance. Second, the loss to follow-up with laboratory
8	testing at three years after surgery was high. Only half of the patients who underwent
9	EVAR during the study period were analyzed, which may have influenced the study
10	results. Third, we did not have sufficient information on the number of times of contrast
11	exposure as described above. Fourth, we do not have information about the number of
12	patients regularly using NSAIDs or other drugs that may affect kidney function. The
13	negative effects of routine use of ACEIs/ARBs or diuretics on short-term renal outcomes
14	are frequently discussed, and we incorporated these factors into the analysis. However,
15	we did not have any information on additional medicines, such as NSAIDs, and this factor
16	may have affected the outcomes. Fifth, the equation for estimated GFR used in this study
17	is different from the equation used in other countries. However, the accuracy of this
18	equation had been confirmed by epidemiological study, and is now widely used in Japan.
19	Since the eGFR value in this study accurately reflects the actual GFR, it can be considered
20	to be the same as the eGFR value by the equation used in other countries.

# 22 CONCLUSIONS

1	This study demonstrates that EVAR with SR endograft fixation is an independent
2	predictor of midterm RFD. Furthermore, risk-adjusted comparisons using propensity
3	score matching revealed that midterm renal function was significantly impaired in the SR
4	group compared with the IR group.
5	
6	CONFLICT OF INTEREST
7	None.
8	
9	FUNDING
10	This research did not receive any specific grants from funding agencies in the public,
11	commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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8		

 Table 1. Patient demographics and characteristics.

	n = 237
Follow-up duration, years, median (IQR)	5.1 (4.0, 6.4)
Age, years, mean (SD)	77.0 (6.3)
Male, n (%)	207 (87.3%)
HT, n (%)	182 (76.8%)
DL, n (%)	100 (42.2%)
DM, n (%)	22 (9.3%)
CAD, n (%)	74 (31.2%)
CVD, n (%)	37 (15.6%)
COPD, n (%)	124 (52.3%)
Baseline serum Cr, mg/dl, mean (SD)	1.00 (0.37)
Baseline eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> , mean (SD)	60.0 (18.1)
ARB or ACEI, n (%)	118 (49.8%)
Diuretic, n (%)	28 (11.8%)
Antiplatelet, n (%)	98 (41.4%)
Statin, n (%)	97 (40.9%)
ß-blocker, n (%)	48 (20.3%)
CCB, n (%)	134 (56.5%)
Current smoker, n (%)	35 (14.8%)
Aneurysm diameter, mm, mean (SD)	52.7 (9.6)

Intraoperative contrast medium, ml, mean (SD)	97.8 (46.1)
Suprarenal fixation, n (%)	135 (57.0%)
Acute kidney injury, n (%)	11 (4.6%)

HT: hypertension, DL: dyslipidemia, DM: diabetes mellitus, CAD: coronary artery disease, CVD: cerebrovascular disease, COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Cr: creatinine, eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate, ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker, ACEI: angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, CCB: calcium channel blocker

<b>.</b>	U	nivariate anal	ysis	Multivariate analysis			
Variable	OR	95% CI	р	OR	95% CI	р	
Female	1.08	0.50-2.33	0.853				
Age	1.02	0.98-1.07	0.299				
Aneurysm Diameter	1.00	0.98-1.03	0.837				
SR Fixation	2.00	1.17-3.41	0.011	1.95	1.12-3.37	0.017	
CKD≥IIIa	0.93	0.55-1.56	0.781				
CKD≥IIIb	1.00	0.52-1.89	0.987				
HT	0.68	0.37-1.25	0.210				
DL	1.17	0.70-1.98	0.553				
DM	1.44	0.60-3.48	0.413				
CAD	1.18	0.68-2.06	0.553				
CVD	0.72	0.35-1.49	0.374				
COPD	1.01	0.61-1.70	0.957				
ARB/ACEI	0.69	0.41-1.16	0.164				
Diuretic	0.75	0.33-1.70	0.490				
Antiplatelet	1.01	0.60-1.70	0.986				
Statin	1.04	0.61-1.75	0.897				
ß-blocker	0.72	0.37-1.38	0.319				

**Table 2.** Univariate and multivariate analyses of potential risk factors associated with midterm renal function decline.

ССВ	1.00	0.60-1.69	0.995			
Smoker	1.05	0.51-2.18	0.888			
AKI	4.00	1.03-15.48	0.045	2.50	0.60-10.44	0.208

SR: suprarenal, CKD: chronic kidney disease, HT: hypertension, DL: dyslipidemia, DM: diabetes mellitus, CAD: coronary artery disease, CVD: cerebrovascular disease, COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker, ACEI: angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, CCB: calcium channel blocker, AKI: acute kidney injury

CKD  $\geq$  IIIa indicates eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.

CKD  $\geq$  IIIb indicates eGFR < 45 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.

Bold values indicate statistical significance (p < 0.05).

	Unmatched cohort			Matched cohort			
	IR group (n = 102)	SR group (n = 135)	р	IR group (n = 87)	SR group (n = 87)	р	
Follow-up duration, years, median (IQR)	5.6 (3.8, 6.8)	5.0 (4.0, 6.0)	.14	6.0 (4.1, 7.0)	5.1 (4.0, 6.4)	.14	
Age, years, mean (SD)	77.8 (6.2)	76.3 (6.3)	.064	77.4 (6.3)	77.0 (6.4)	.72	
Male, n (%)	84 (82.4%)	123 (91.1%)	.045	74 (85.1%)	77 (88.5%)	.50	
HT, n (%)	80 (78.4%)	102 (75.6%)	.60	67 (77.0%)	66 (75.9%)	.86	
DL, n (%)	43 (42.2%)	57 (42.2%)	.99	36 (41.4%)	38 (43.7%)	.76	
DM, n (%)	10 (9.8%)	12 (8.9%)	.81	8 (9.2%)	7 (8.0%)	.79	
CAD, n (%)	31 (30.4%)	43 (31.9%)	.81	24 (27.6%)	27 (31.0%)	.62	
CVD, n (%)	19 (18.6%)	18 (13.3%)	.27	15 (17.2%)	16 (18.4%)	.84	
COPD, n (%)	52 (51.0%)	72 (53.3%)	.72	44 (50.6%)	51 (58.6%)	.29	
Baseline serum Cr, mg/dl, mean (SD)	1.00 (0.45)	1.00 (0.30)	.93	0.95 (0.29)	0.97 (0.30)	.66	
Baseline eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> , mean (SD)	60.7 (19.9)	59.5 (16.7)	.63	61.9 (18.2)	61.2 (17.3)	.78	
$CKD \ge IIIa, n (\%)$	51 (50.0%)	76 (56.3%)	.34	43 (49.4%)	43 (49.4%)	1.00	
CKD $\geq$ IIIb, n (%)	20 (19.6%)	28 (20.7%)	.83	14 (16.1%)	16 (18.4%)	.69	
ARB or ACEI, n (%)	52 (51.0%)	66 (48.9%)	.75	45 (51.7%)	43 (49.4%)	.76	
Diuretic, n (%)	12 (11.8%)	16 (11.9%)	.98	11 (12.6%)	12 (13.8%)	.82	
Antiplatelet, n (%)	44 (43.1%)	54 (40.0%)	.63	34 (39.1%)	35 (40.2%)	.88	

**Table 3.** Patient demographics and characteristics comparing infrarenal and suprarenal fixation in the unmatched and matched cohorts.

Statin, n (%)	41 (40.2%)	56 (41.5%)	.84	35 (39.8%)	33 (37.5%)	.76
ß-blocker, n (%)	22 (21.6%)	26 (19.3%)	.66	17 (19.5%)	18 (20.7%)	.85
CCB, n (%)	62 (60.8%)	72 (53.3%)	.25	52 (59.8%)	47 (54.0%)	.44
Current smoker, n (%)	13 (12.7%)	22 (16.3%)	.45	13 (14.9%)	11 (12.6%)	.66
Aneurysm diameter, mm, mean (SD)	51.3 (10.7)	53.7 (8.5)	.051	51.9 (9.5)	52.5 (7.5)	.61
Contrast medium, ml, mean (SD)	90.6 (43.2)	103.2 (47.6)	.043	93.7 (39.2)	100.2 (49.7)	.36
Postoperative serum Cr, mg/dl, mean (SD)	0.96 (0.46)	0.95 (0.29)	.81	0.90 (0.30)	0.93 (0.30)	.45
Postoperative eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> , mean (SD)	64.1 (21.2)	62.9 (18.4)	.65	65.7 (19.8)	63.7 (18.8)	.50
Acute kidney injury, n (%)	1 (1.0%)	10 (7.5%)	.026	_	-	-
Number of times of CE-CT, mean (SD)	4.8 (2.0)	4.6 (1.9)	.45	5.0 (1.8)	4.9 (1.7)	.90

IR: infrarenal, SR: suprarenal, HT: hypertension, DL: dyslipidemia, DM: diabetes mellitus, CAD: coronary artery disease, CVD: cerebrovascular disease, COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Cr: creatinine, eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate, ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker, ACEI: angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, CCB: calcium channel blocker, CE-CT: contrast enhanced computed tomogram Bold values indicate statistical significance (p < 0.05).