Royal College of Emergency Medicine

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Approaches to diagnosing acute aortic dissection in the ED

Available until 15 October 2026
RCEM accredited for 5-CPD points

Session 1	
15 minutes	**Introduction** Ms Catherine Fowler, The Aortic Dissection Charitable Trust
20 minutes	**Aortic Dissection: Overview and pathophysiology** Dr Graham Cooper, The Aortic Dissection Charitable Trust
20 minutes	**What we know and don't know about those with missed diagnosis** Professor Matt Reed, University of Edinburgh
25 minutes	**What the research tells us** Professor Steve Goodacre, University of Sheffield
Session 2	
20 minutes	**Role of D-dimer in AAS diagnosis** Dr Sarah Wilson, RCEM Associate Professor and Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
15 minutes	**The new RCEM guidelines on diagnosis of thoracic aortic dissection in the ED** Dr Catherine Hayhurst, Cambridge University Hospitals
25 minutes	**'I am afraid to say it wasn't a heart attack'** Mr Martin Hilton, Aortic Ironman
Session 3	
45 minutes	**Panel: How do I investigate my ED patient with possible AAS?** Dr Catherine Hayhurst, Dr Sarah Wilson and Professor Steve Goodacre Moderator: Professor Matt Reed
20 minutes	**Quality improvement** Dr Austin Smithies, Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
20 minutes	**Point of care ultrasound** Dr Luke Flower, University of Cambridge
20 minutes	**Biomarkers** Dr Tian Zao, University of Cambridge
20 minutes	**Artificial intelligence** Dr Jim Zhong, University of Leeds
20 minutes	**Diessction at every level: Rebuilding the system** Dr Farhin Holia, Barts Health Centre
Session 4	
25 minutes	**Cognitive biases that may lead to missed diagnosis** Professor Steve Goodacre
10 minutes	**Summary**

Programme timings and content subject to change.