Repair of a proximal descending aortic aneurysm in a 12 year-old patient

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The incidence of aortic aneurysms is rare in the pediatric population. We present the case of a 12 year-old patient diagnosed two years ago with mild coarctation of the aorta and found to have an aortic aneurysm just distal to the subclavian artery. Though she was asymptomatic, a follow-up CT scan showed a rapidly expanding aneurysm from 2.5cm to 5.0cm within one year. The patient had no history or family history of connective tissue defect syndromes.

The patient underwent an open thoracotomy with placement of a 16mm graft distal to the left subclavian artery. Total bypass time was 167 minutes with 23 minutes of circulatory arrest. We will discuss the anesthetic management of a pediatric patient undergoing a descending aortic aneurysm repair.