AWARENESS ALERT!

ACUTE AORTIC SYNDROME (AAS)

● What is Acute Aortic Syndrome (AAS)? Chest pain as a result of a distended thoracic aorta.

● Who has AAS? Patients with thoracic aneurysms or dissections combined with hypertension.

● Why is AAS a critical condition? Without appropriate diagnosis and treatment, aortic rupture or dissection often lead to loss of life.

● How is AAS diagnosed? With contrast enhanced spiral CT or transesophageal echocardiogram. EKG and cardiac enzymes will be grossly normal.

● Where should a patient with AAS receive treatment? Preferably, a center with thoracic aortic surgery capabilities. If not available, a medical center with open heart surgery capabilities.

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