INVITED COMMENTARY

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The accompanying report by Savlovskis et al.1 shows there is no neck dilatation 3 years after endovascular aneurysm repair using the Nellix device (Endologix, Irvine, Calif). This is a reassuring finding, because unlike a typical oversized self-expanding stent graft, the polymer-filled Nellix endobag is of fixed diameter. Any significant dilatation of the neck would have inevitably resulted in a type I endoleak. In this regard, the behavior of the Nellix device resembles the behavior of the Ovation (TriVascular, Santa Rosa, Calif) stent graft. The polymer-filled sealing rings of the Ovation have no capacity for expansion, and (as yet unpublished) data are said to show no significant dilatation of the neck at 3 years.2

The report by Savlovskis et al.1 documents medium-term data on neck dilatation after implantation of the Endurant (Medtronic, Minneapolis, Minn) stent graft. Their findings are consistent with other medium-term studies on self-expanding stent grafts. However, long-term studies3 show this process is self-limited. Once the stent graft reaches full expansion, its diameter and the diameter of the surrounding neck both stabilize. The fully expanded stent graft appears to protect the neck. As long as the neck is sufficiently