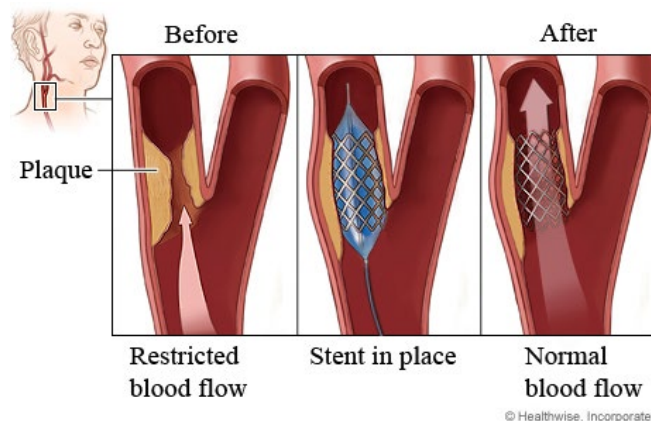


Carotid Artery Stenting

Your carotid arteries are the main source of blood supply to your brain. When plaque builds up in your arteries, they become narrow and reduce blood flow to the brain. Carotid artery disease is one of the leading causes of stroke in the United States, accounting for 20-30% of all ischemic strokes. Once the narrowing becomes severe, your doctor may consider Carotid Artery Stenting.



What can you expect before your procedure?

You may be prescribed two different kinds of medications to prevent your platelets from adhering to the stent. The night before the procedure, do not eat or drink after midnight. You may however, take any regularly scheduled medications the morning of your procedure with a small sip of water.

What happens during your procedure?

An IV will be started and you will be given medication to help you relax by the anesthesia team and a breathing tube may be placed if needed. A small tube will be inserted into your femoral artery and threaded upward to the carotid artery. Dye will be injected and x-ray images will be taken. A filter will be placed into the carotid artery to catch any plaque debris that may become dislodged; this is done to reduce your risk of intra-procedural stroke. A small balloon will then be inflated at the site of narrowing and the stent will be placed. The small tube and filter will be removed. Your anesthesia team will then remove the breathing tube if placed and help you wake up.

What happens after your procedure?

You can expect to have a small incision and bandage at the groin. Your vital signs and neurological status will be monitored frequently and you can expect at least one night in intensive care. You may receive fluids and IV medications during your stay. You will need to lie still for a few hours after the procedure to protect the incision at your groin. You will also undergo a carotid ultrasound before discharge for future comparison.

How to care for yourself after discharge:

Keep your incision clean and dry and do not remove any glue, adhesive strips, or sutures for at least 2 weeks. Do not take baths, swim, or use a hot tub until directed by your doctor. If you develop any redness, fever, pain, or drainage from your incision, contact your doctor right away. Do not lift more than 10 pounds until cleared by your doctor.

You should contact 911 if you develop any signs or symptoms of stroke such as dizziness, sudden change in vision, facial weakness or numbness, difficulty speaking or understanding speech, or any weakness or numbness in your arms or legs. Do not stop taking any medications unless explicitly told to by your doctor.