

Carotid Artery Surgeries

Your doctors have determined that a blockage in your carotid artery (one of the arteries that goes to the brain) may lead to a stroke. To lower this risk, it is recommended that you undergo a procedure to open your carotid artery. There are two ways to open this artery. One involves cleaning out the artery directly, and the other involves placing a metal gate (stent) to hold the artery open. There are advantages and disadvantages to either. Your doctor will determine which is best for you. There are some items to expect pertaining to your surgery.

Before Surgery

1. You must take all prescribed medications as directed.
2. All patients require a statin medication to be initiated at least 5 days prior to the procedure and should be taken indefinitely including the day of surgery with a sip of water.
3. Patients should be evaluated by the anesthesia staff prior to the day of surgery to make sure that surgery can be performed safely the day of surgery. This visit will lower the risk that the surgery will be canceled.
4. Nothing is to be by mouth starting midnight, the night before surgery except prescribed medications with sips of water. This includes water and coffee. We will inform you of the medications that should not be taken before surgery and when to stop them.

Day of Surgery

1. You must arrive at admissions at the time listed on your instruction sheet. This is typically 2 hours prior to the scheduled time of your surgery. Failure to come on time may lead to the cancellation of your surgery.
2. There are many factors, beyond the control of your surgeon, that determine when surgery actually starts. This may lead to delays. Please be patient with the staff as they try to get your surgery started as soon as possible.
3. Family members/belongings: it is best to leave all items of value at home (cash, jewelry etc.). All items that are brought to the hospital with you should be left with your loved one. All other items (clothing etc.) will be stored and given back to you after surgery.
4. Once surgery starts, we will inform your loved one and will update them on the progress of the surgery.
5. After the surgery is completed, the surgeon will come out and discuss how the case went. It is important that your loved one be available in person or by phone so that the surgeon can share this information.

Day of Surgery

6. Swallowing may be uncomfortable.
7. Visitation: Hospital policies vary between institutions and over time (particularly since the onset of the pandemic). The hospital may allow a loved one to stay overnight but this cannot be guaranteed.
8. You will feel sore and stiff the day of surgery. Pain medication will be provided to lessen this pain.
9. Mobility is important after surgery, so we will ensure that you get out of bed and walk around.
10. The nurses will monitor various vital signs as well as your overall physical status. They are in constant communication with your surgeon with any concerns that may arise.

After Surgery

1. Your surgeon or one of the surgeon's designees will evaluate you and determine if you are ready to be discharged.
2. We expect you will be able to go home the morning after surgery, but if there are any concerns, we may keep you as long as needed to ensure the best outcome.
3. We ask that you avoid driving and heavy lifting (over 20 pounds) until the first office visit after surgery.
4. If you have a dressing, it may be removed 2 days after surgery. Replace with gauze and tape if there is drainage from the wound. You may shower after the first dressing is removed, without scrubbing the wound.
5. Mild to moderate swelling and bruising of the neck is expected.
6. Swallowing may be uncomfortable.
7. Any major swelling, severe difficulty swallowing, or severe difficulty breathing should prompt an urgent call to the doctor.
8. A follow up visit with the doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant should occur in 2-3 weeks after surgery.
9. You will be scheduled an ultrasound study to be done around 6 weeks after your surgery and periodically after that to monitor the cleaned out/stented artery.
10. If there are any questions, please visit the website at www.arteyandvein.com/FAQ.



VascularSpecialists

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It is important to us that our patients are able to easily contact us to schedule appointments or discuss any questions/concerns.

Our office phone number is **407.648.4323**. If you have any questions you can reach us between the hours of 8AM-5PM. If you have an urgent concern and need to call after hours you will reach one of our surgeons through our answering service. Answers to many common questions may also be found at www.arteryandvein.com.

GENERAL QUESTIONS CAN BE EMAILED TO: patients@arteryandvein.com