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A bypass is performed to create a new pathway for your blood around an area of blockage in your artery. This is done by connecting either one of your own veins or a synthetic graft just above and just below the area of blockage in the artery.



## During Surgery

- You will be given anesthesia, so you will be asleep and pain-free.
- You will receive fluids and other medicines during the surgery through an intravenous line (IV).
- A tube will be placed down your throat to help you breathe during the surgery. This will usually be removed before you wake up.
- You will also have a tube placed in your bladder to drain your urine. This will usually be removed on the first day after surgery.
- The surgeon will make at least two four to eight inch long incisions (cuts) on your legs to gain access to your arteries and veins.
- If your own vein is used to create the graft, other small incisions may be made on the inner portion of the thigh. Otherwise, a synthetic tube made of fabric (Dacron) or plastic (PTFE, Gortex) will be used.
- The graft is sewn to the artery at both ends with fine stitches.
- Then the incisions will either be closed with stitches or staples.
- Surgery can take one to six hours.

## After Surgery

### Recovery – What to Expect

- After surgery, you will be transferred to the intensive care unit for overnight monitoring of your blood pressure, oxygenation, and heart rate.
- The next day you will likely transfer to a medical-surgical unit where you will continue to recover from your procedure. On this unit, you will begin to increase your activity starting with sitting in a chair and then walking, as much as tolerated.
- You should expect to be in the hospital for five to seven days.
- You may experience swelling to the leg after the procedure due to new and increased blood flow, this is expected. Although expected, give our office a call to discuss ways to manage the swelling.

### Incision Site Care

- Keep your surgical incisions clean and dry.
- Your stitches will be removed at your follow up appointment. Leave your stitches in place until then.
- Keep an eye out for bleeding from the wound. A small amount of blood on the bandage is normal, up to the size of a quarter.
- If you experience bleeding, lie down and press on the area for 15 minutes. If the bleeding doesn't stop, you should call your surgeon's office or go to the hospital right away.
- Do not soak the area until it has healed. Do not take a bath until your doctor says it's okay.
- You may remove the surgery dressing and shower 48 hours after the procedure. Be sure to pat the surgery area dry with a clean towel.

## Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms:



- A growing lump near your surgery site.
- Bleeding from your surgery site
- Significant swelling of the arm or leg.
- Pain uncontrolled by pain medication.
- Coolness and/or numbness in the arm or leg.
- Changes in color of skin on the leg or the foot
- Incision that opens up or pulls apart
- Signs of infection around the incision (redness, drainage, warmth, pain)
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Persistent nausea or diarrhea



You will follow up in our office in two weeks with an ultrasound. You will receive an appointment confirmation call one to two business days prior to the appointment. This information will also be available on your MyChart portal. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure or care, please call the office, or you can send a message through the MyChart portal.