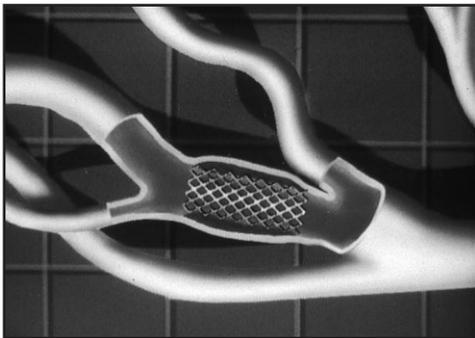
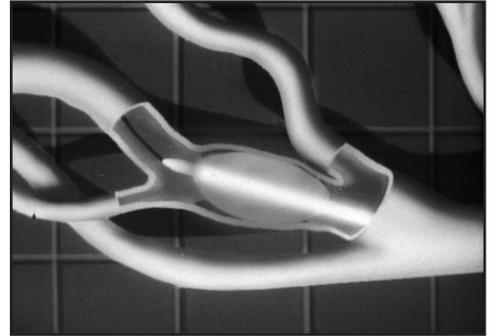


Heart Interventions

Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA)

PTCA is a procedure performed by your doctor after it is determined that you have coronary artery disease. The doctor will exchange the catheter for a slightly larger catheter (guiding catheter). This does not require any additional sticks or pokes. Another catheter with a balloon will be inserted into the artery where the blockage is. The balloon is then blown up to press the plaque against the artery. It is not uncommon to feel chest pain when the balloon is inflated. If this should occur, let your doctor know. Opening the artery improves oxygen rich blood to flow to the heart.



Stent

A stent is a small metal tube that looks like the spring in a ball point pen. The stent is placed on a balloon. As the balloon is inflated, the stent is opened and the plaque is pressed further against the wall of the artery. This stent is designed to keep the artery open.

Athrectomy

An athrectomy is a special catheter that allows the plaque to be cut and removed from the artery. A PTCA and stent may be performed after the plaque is cut.

After The Test

The sheath may remain in your groin for several hours. This allows the medicine that was used to thin your blood to disappear. It is important that you lie flat during this time. When the sheath is removed, your doctor will either use a special device to close or seal the puncture site or apply physical pressure. You will have to lie flat for several hours after the procedure to make sure all bleeding has stopped. It is important that you keep your leg straight during this time. If you need to cough or sneeze, apply pressure to the puncture site. A nurse will check your groin frequently to make sure there is no bleeding. Let your nurse know if you feel any chest pain or pain at the puncture site.

If your doctor chooses the radial approach, the sheath is removed in the Cath lab with pressure held by a band around your wrist.