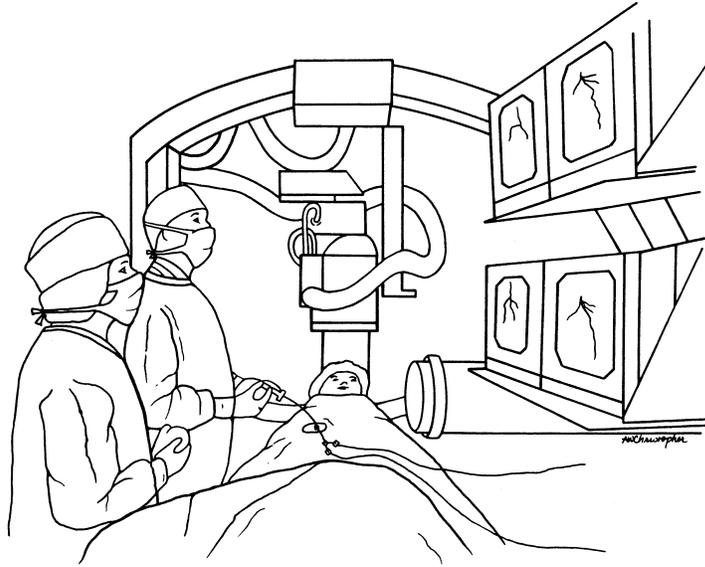


Heart Angioplasty



Heart angioplasty is also called coronary angioplasty, balloon angioplasty or PTCA. A catheter is used to open up narrowed blood vessels to the heart. Narrowed blood vessels can lead to chest pain or a heart attack. A stent may also be placed. A stent is a spring like device that keeps the blood vessel open.

Arrive on time for your treatment. Plan to be here 4-6 hours. Angioplasty takes about 30 minutes. You may need to stay overnight in the hospital. Plan to have an adult family member or friend take you home.

To Prepare

- Your doctor may order some tests such as a chest x-ray, EKG, and blood tests.
- Do not eat or drink anything, including water, after midnight before your treatment.
- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicines the morning of the treatment. If so, take with sips of water only.
- Tell the staff if you are allergic to any medicines or dyes.

During Your Angioplasty

- You will wear a hospital gown and lie on a table.

- An IV (intravenous) is put into a vein in your arm. Medicine to help you relax and fluids are given through your IV.
- You will be awake. You may be asked to cough, take deep breaths or move your arms.
- Small pads are put on your chest to check your heart. For men, chest hair may need to be shaved.
- A blood pressure cuff is put on your arm. Your blood pressure and heart rate are checked often.
- The catheter site, either your groin or your arm, is cleaned. Your groin may be shaved if used.
- The doctor numbs the site where the catheter will be put in. This may sting for a few seconds. After this, you should only feel pressure and no pain.
- The lights may be turned down so the doctor can see the screen.
- The doctor puts a needle into a large blood vessel in the numbed site.
- The catheter is threaded into the needle, through the blood vessel and into your heart. The doctor watches the catheter movement on the screen.
- Dye is given. You may feel a hot flush or nausea for a few seconds. The dye lets the doctor place the catheter in the right spot to treat the blockage.
- The catheter has a balloon on the end of it. The balloon is made bigger and smaller a few times to open the narrowed blood vessel. You may feel some chest pressure, but the pressure should ease quickly. **Tell the staff how you are feeling.**
- A stent may be placed to keep the blood vessel open. The stent is a small, wire tube.
- Dye is given again to see how much the blood vessel has been opened.
- The catheter is then removed.
- The needle placed in your catheter site may stay in place for several hours.
- When the needle is removed, the blood vessel is closed. The staff will hold pressure on the site for 10-20 minutes so it does not bleed. A clamp may be put on for about 1 hour to hold pressure on the site. A bandage is put over the site.

After Your Angioplasty

In the Hospital

- Your site, pulse and blood pressure will be checked often.
- You may drink clear liquids until the needle is removed. After that you may return to your normal diet.
- Your leg or arm needs to be kept straight for about 6 hours to prevent bleeding.
- It is common for your catheter site to be tender and bruised.
- You may have oxygen and a heart monitor in place for a few hours.
- An EKG or blood tests may be done.
- Your doctor will talk to you about your angioplasty results.

At Home

- Drink plenty of liquids to help your body get rid of the dye.
- Rest for 24 hours.
- Remove the pressure bandage at bedtime and put on a clean band-aid.
- You can take a shower.
- Do not take a tub bath for 1 week after your angioplasty.
- Do not scrub the site.
- Remove the band-aid over the site when you shower.
- You can leave the site uncovered or put a clean band-aid on it.
- Check the site each day for any more redness, bruising or swelling.
- Do not drive for 2-3 days.
- Do not exercise, run, or lift objects over 10 pounds or 4.5 kilograms for three days.
- Talk to your doctor or nurse about other activity limits.

You should be able to return to normal activities in about a week.

Call your doctor **right away** if you have:

- Bleeding at the site that will not stop
- Sharp pain or stinging at the site
- Swelling, redness, more bruising, or tenderness at the site
- Drainage or warmth at the site
- Coldness or paleness of the foot or hand

- Problems moving your toes or fingers
- Numbness or weakness
- Fever or chills
- Confusion or you are less alert

If you have bleeding that will not stop or a lump that gets bigger at the site, **lie flat, hold pressure on the site and call 911.**

Talk to the staff if you have any questions or concerns.