

Off Pump Coronary Artery Bypass

What is Off Pump Coronary Artery Bypass?

As the name implies this is Coronary Artery Bypass (CAB) surgery done without the use of the [heart lung machine](#). Sometimes it is referred to as “beating heart” surgery since the heart is not stopped during the procedure.

Why would I want to have my surgery done this way?

For some people who are at increased risk for stroke or possible kidney failure at the time of surgery, avoiding the pump is a distinct advantage.

What conditions would predispose me to an increased risk of a stroke?

Patients of increased age or with calcified aortas or with cerebral vascular disease have an increased incidence of stroke at the time of surgery.

How would staying off pump impact my kidneys?

For patients with pre-operative kidney problems, staying off pump decreases the chance of fluid build up that often occurs on pump and thus decreases the insult to the kidneys.

If I have had previous bypass surgery am I still a candidate?

Yes. Even though you’ve had traditional bypass surgery you are still a candidate.

Why doesn’t everyone have their bypass surgery done this way?

Surgery on the beating heart is technically more difficult for the surgeon. Depending on the location of your blockage, it may not be able to be reached and repaired without rotating the heart. This movement can cause changes in your heart rhythm. The pros and cons for your individual case need to be evaluated and a decision made based on what’s best for you.