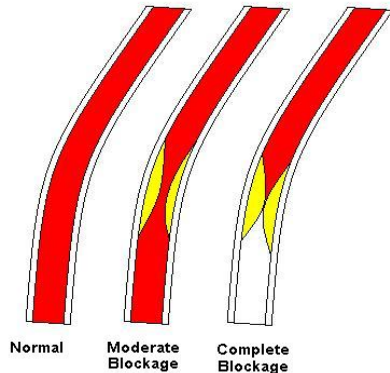


Peripheral Artery Bypass

What is the peripheral arterial system?

The [peripheral arterial system](#) includes all the arteries throughout your body with the exception of your head and your heart.



What is Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)?

[Peripheral Artery Disease \(PAD\)](#) is a build up of blockage in an [arterial](#) vessel that narrows it and limits flow. It occurs most commonly in the arteries of the lower body and can create symptoms such as pain in the thigh or calf when walking which goes away when you rest.

How is PAD diagnosed?

The most commonly used tools to diagnose PAD are [ultrasound](#), [angiography](#) and [Magnetic Resonance Imaging \(MRI\)](#). All of these tests work on the same principle of detecting decreased blood flow in the effected area.

Can the blockage be repaired?

Yes. Therapies may include medication (blood thinners), the placement of [stents](#), or the use of [angioplasty](#). Whenever possible these treatments are attempted before surgical intervention.

Why would I need surgery?

If the above mentioned therapies have failed and the problem persists, you may need surgery to treat your condition. Surgery is done under [general anesthesia](#).

How does bypass surgery fix this blockage?

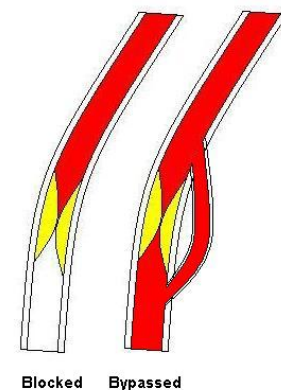
In fact, surgery doesn't fix the blockage, it bypasses it.

Whenever possible a vessel from another location in your body, but if this is not possible a [Dacron](#)[®] graft can be used to go around the blockage and restore proper flow.

How long will the surgery take?

Depending on the location, the procedure may take from one to three hours.

What do I need to do when I get home from surgery?



- Shower and wash your incision daily with an antibacterial soap.
- Routinely check your incision for any signs of infection such as redness or draining.
- Keep your feet elevated as much as possible.
- No driving for 2-3 weeks after surgery.