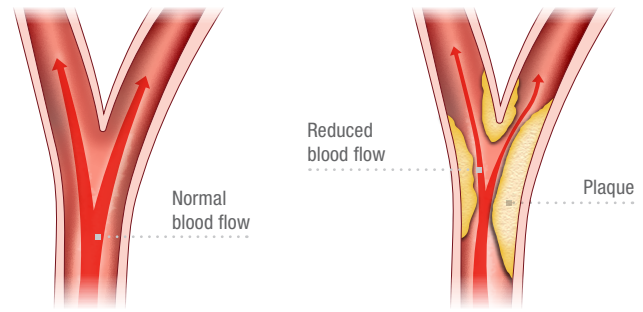


Carotid Artery Stenosis

What Is Carotid Artery Stenosis?

The carotid arteries (the large artery on either side of your neck) are the main blood vessels that carry blood and oxygen to the brain. Carotid stenosis occurs when there is buildup of plaque on the inside of the artery (atherosclerosis) causing the arteries to narrow. When these arteries become narrowed, blood flow to the brain is decreased and sometimes even completely blocked, which can lead to an ischemic stroke.



Symptoms

Carotid Artery Stenosis often doesn't have symptoms. The condition might not be apparent until it is serious enough to deprive the brain of blood, causing a stroke or TIA (trans-ischemic attack). Indicators of a stroke or TIA include:

- Weakness, numbness or paralysis in the face, arm or leg (typically on one side of the body)
- Slurred or garbled speech or difficulty understanding others
- Blindness or double vision in one or both eyes
- Dizziness or loss of balance or coordination

Risk Factors

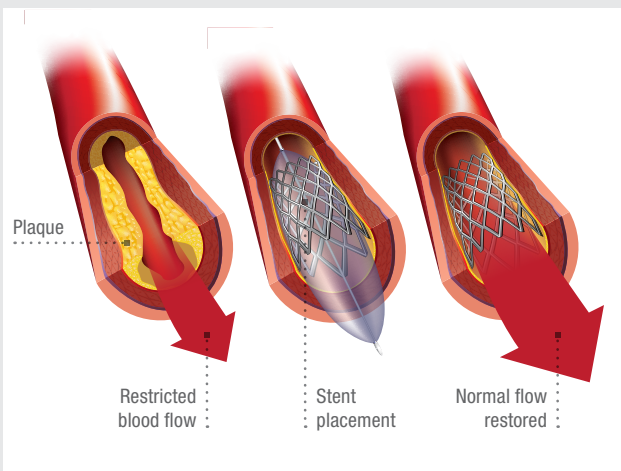
Factors that increase the risk of carotid artery disease include:

- High blood pressure
- Tobacco use
- Diabetes
- High blood-fat levels
- Family history
- Age
- Obesity
- Sleep apnea
- Lack of exercise

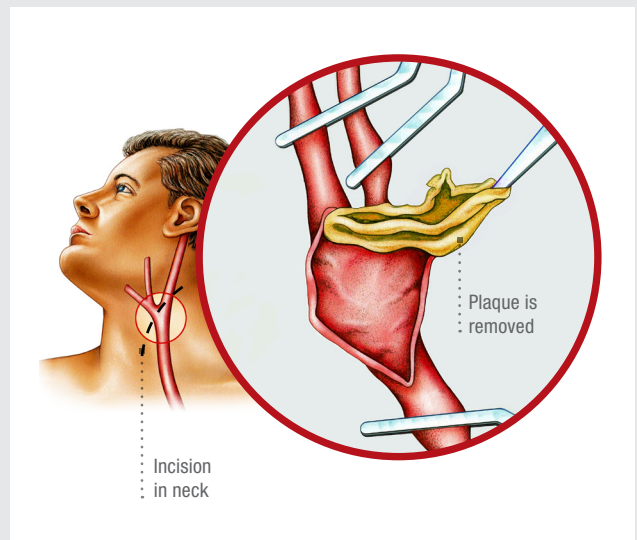


Carotid Artery Stenosis Treatment

Carotid Stenting Stenting of the carotid artery is a common minimally invasive treatment option for carotid stenosis. In carotid stenting, a catheter (tube) is inserted through an incision in the femoral artery in the groin or radial artery at the wrist and guided toward the carotid artery in the neck. A small wire mesh coil, known as a stent, is placed to keep the artery from narrowing.



Carotid Endarterectomy A surgical procedure in which an incision is made on the side of the neck at the site of the affected carotid artery. The artery is opened, the plaque is removed to restore normal blood flow, and the incisions are closed with stitches.



Sources: American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Stock images used under license from stock.adobe.com and iStock.com. Renderings for illustrative purposes only. Individual results may vary depending on patient-specific attributes and other factors. This content has been provided by Penumbra, Inc. and is to be used for educational purposes only. The information does not constitute medical advice and should not be used as a substitute for discussing any medical concerns or conditions with your physician. For more information, please consult your healthcare provider. Copyright ©2024 Penumbra, Inc. All rights reserved. The Penumbra P logo is a registered trademark or trademark of Penumbra, Inc. in the USA and other countries. 30850, Rev. B 09/24 USA

penumbrainc.com

Penumbra 