

Vascular Surgery

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) repair is done when an aneurysm (ballooning of the wall) is found in the main artery (aorta) in the abdominal area. Your doctor may recommend a surgical repair of this ballooning because if the weakened aortic wall breaks open you would have serious, possibly fatal bleeding.

Carotid Endarterectomy is performed when the main blood vessels supplying the brain (carotid arteries) have become blocked with plaque. This can result in reduced blood flow to the brain, and possibly TIA's or stroke. These vessels are located in your neck.

Peripheral Bypass Surgery is done when the arteries that supply blood to your leg become narrowed or blocked by plaque. This decreased circulation causes pain with activity and can lead to poor healing or tissue death (gangrene).

Before the day of surgery:

- Ask your doctor if you need to stop taking blood-thinning medicines like aspirin, coumadin or certain vitamins and herbs.
- At least 3 weeks before surgery stop smoking.
- Ask your doctor if you should donate your own blood in case a transfusion is needed.

On the day of surgery:

- You may take medications for heart, blood pressure, stomach or anxiety first thing in the morning
- You will need to arrive 1 ½ - 2 hours before surgery. A nurse will interview you, start an IV and answer any questions you have.

The procedure:

AAA

- The surgeon makes an incision in the abdomen or belly. The aorta is opened and cleaned of any blood clot. A graft is sewn inside the aorta that will safely route the blood past the aneurysm.

Carotid surgery

- An incision is made in the neck. The carotid artery is opened and the plaque is carefully removed. The artery and skin are closed up with sutures.