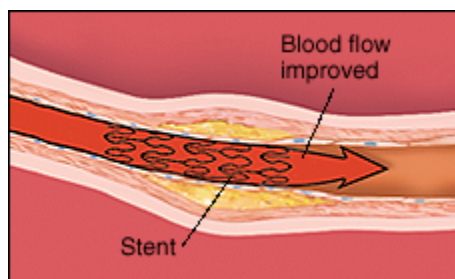


Peripheral Arterial Stent

Peripheral arterial angioplasty is a procedure done to treat a narrowed or blocked artery in an arm or leg. This restores blood flow to the limb and helps relieve symptoms. In some cases, a metal mesh tube called a stent may then be placed into the artery to hold the artery open. The procedure is done by a specially trained doctor called an interventional radiologist.



During the Procedure

- An IV (intravenous) line is put into a vein to give you fluids and medications. You may be given medication to help you relax and make you sleepy. A local anesthetic is given to keep you from feeling pain where the catheter (thin, flexible, tube) will be inserted.
- A very small incision is made over the insertion site. A catheter is inserted through the incision into the artery. The movement of the catheter is watched on a video monitor.
- Contrast medium is injected through the catheter into the artery. This helps the artery show clearly on x-ray images. Using these images as a guide, the radiologist moves the catheter to the narrowed or blocked part of the artery.
- When the catheter reaches the narrowed or blocked area, a special balloon attached to the catheter is inflated (angioplasty). This widens the passage through the artery.
- Sometimes the artery won't stay open after the angioplasty. In this case, a stent is needed. A catheter with a stent attached is threaded through the artery. When the stent is in the right position, it is opened.
- When the procedure is done, all catheters and balloons are removed. The stent remains in place. Pressure is put on the insertion site for 15 minutes to stop bleeding.