



Fact Sheet

About Coronary Artery Stenting

Key Facts

- Coronary artery stenting is a minimally-invasive treatment option for narrowed or blocked arteries
- A stent is a tiny wire mesh tube used to prop open an artery at the site of blockage and prevent it from renarrowing

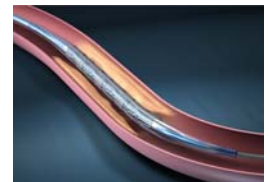


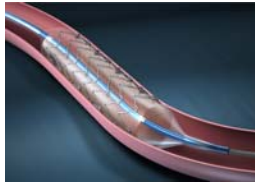
Stenting is a minimally-invasive medical treatment option for coronary artery disease (CAD) – a condition characterized by the narrowing or blocking of the arteries that supply blood to the heart. A stent, or tiny wire mesh tube, is inserted as part of an angioplasty procedure in which a balloon is used to open an artery that has become narrowed or blocked. During the procedure, the stent is guided by a catheter and inserted into the blocked artery to prop it open and restore blood flow to the heart. The stent stays in place to help prevent the artery from narrowing again, an occurrence known as restenosis.

In cases where stenting is appropriate, a doctor will determine whether to use a bare metal stent, which acts as simple scaffolding to keep the artery open, or a drug eluting stent. A drug eluting stent also acts as scaffolding, but has a drug coating that is released (eluted) in a controlled fashion over time to help prevent the artery from renarrowing or becoming blocked following the procedure.

The Stent Procedure

Step One: In preparation for the procedure, a stent is placed over a small balloon. A doctor then uses a catheter to guide the balloon and stent through a blood vessel in the patient's femoral artery – an artery in the upper leg – to the narrowed or blocked section of the coronary artery.





Step Two: The balloon is then inflated to expand the stent against the blocked portion of the artery wall to hold it open.

Step Three: The balloon is deflated and the catheter is withdrawn. The stent is left in place to hold the artery open and improve blood flow to the heart.

