Carotid Endarterectomy (CEA)

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Penn Medicine

Penn Vascular Surgery
Benefits
- Lower the risk of stroke.

Alternatives Care Options
Treating the Carotid Artery
- Placement of a stent across the blockage using minimally invasive surgery.
  OR
- Medical therapy alone without surgery, to stop the plaque from growing

Not Treating the Carotid Artery
- You always have the choice to not have surgery.

Why we recommend carotid endarterectomy over alternatives

*For anesthesia and other general risks, see standard consent.*
What is my recovery like?

What should I expect after surgery?
- Incision pain, lasting about 1 week.
- Feeling tired, usually 1-2 weeks.
- Move around slowly due to discomfort. You may need a nurse or physical therapist at home to help get your strength back.

How long will I stay in the hospital?
- Usually 1-2 days.

When will I return to:
- My “normal self”: 1-2 weeks.
- Driving: usually 1-2 weeks.
- Work: usually 1-2 weeks.