



CENTER FOR VASCULAR DISEASES
901 South Main Street
Fall River, MA 02724
(508) 673-4329
www.centerforvascular diseases.com

Bypass Surgery

Bypass is surgery to reroute the blood supply around a blocked artery. This is performed using a vein from your body or a synthetic graft.

Activity

- You may resume normal daily activity as you feel able.
- No strenuous activity or lifting of heavy objects until you are cleared by your surgeon.
- You may resume driving after 1 week if you feel well enough and are not taking any narcotic pain medication.
- You may shower 72 hours after the procedure. No tub baths or swimming until the incision is completely healed (approx. 2 weeks).

Care for Your Incision

- These incisions are closed with sutures or staples and will be removed at a follow up visit.
- You may remove the dressing after 72 hours if there is no drainage. You may have an incision that extends up to the groin. These incisions are susceptible to infection due to the skin folds and moist environment. You may place a gauze pad here to keep the area clean and dry.
- It is normal for the incisions to be slightly tender, pink and bruised. If you notice increased tenderness, warmth, redness or drainage of pus you should notify your surgeon's office.

Leg Swelling

- Leg swelling is common after leg bypass surgery. The swelling should gradually resolve within six months. To minimize the swelling you should keep your legs elevated above the level of your heart when you are not walking.

Pain

- You will be given pain medication
- Pain medication can cause constipation. In addition to increasing the amount of water that you drink, over the counter medication can be used (Colace, Milk of Magnesia, Dulcolax)

Fever

- You may experience a low-grade fever 7 – 10 days after your procedure. If the fever is higher than 101.5 F, you should contact your surgeon's office.

Preventative Antibiotics

- If your surgery was performed using a synthetic graft, please notify your dentist and primary care physician. A preventive dose of antibiotics prior to dental work and other invasive procedures is recommended to prevent the graft from potentially becoming infected.



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When to Call Your Physician

- Fevers greater than 101.5 F or chills
- Redness, increased swelling, tenderness or drainage of pus from incision
- Severe or unusual arm or leg pain, numbness, coldness, or weakness
- Severe or unusual abdominal or back pain

For questions, please call The Center for Vascular Diseases [\(508\)673-4329](tel:5086734329)