Endarterectomy Surgery

An endarterectomy is performed by making an incision in the affected artery and removes the plaque contained in the artery's inner lining. The artery is then closed or a patch is sewn in place to create a larger artery.

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 not drive until cleared by your surgeon.
- 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
- This incision is closed with sutures or staples and will be removed at a follow up visit.
- This incision was closed with dissolvable sutures. The skin is then closed with steri strips, pieces of paper tape. The steri strips should fall off in 7 days. If they do not fall off you may remove them after 7 days.
- It is normal for the incisions to be slightly tender, pink and bruised. If you notice increased swelling, tenderness, warmth, redness or drainage of pus you should notify your surgeon's office.

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.

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
- Neurological changes such as weakness of arm or leg, slurred speech, facial droop or loss of vision in one eye.

For questions, please call The Center for Vascular Diseases (508)673-4329