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CORONARY ANGIOPLASTY



1. What is Coronary angioplasty?

Coronary angioplasty (PCI or PTCA) is a technique for treating coronary artery blockage.

2. How is coronary angioplasty done?

A fine flexible tube with a small inflatable balloon at its top is pierced in to the artery in either the groin or arm. This balloon is positioned across the block in your heart vessel under X ray screening. The balloon will be gently inflated so that it substitutes the fatty tissue of the removed artery.

3. What is a stent?

After Angioplasty usually stenting is done to prevent the recoil and re block of the heart blood vessel. Here a catheter containing stent- a small tube of stainless steel mesh is inserted across the block and inflated.

4. What are the types of stents?

There are two types of stents:

- Base metal stent made up of stainless steel or cobalt chromium.
- Drug eluding stent- here the stent is coated with a drug which is released slowly over 6 months.

5. What is the advantage of drug eluding stent?

Drug eluding stent prevents the chance of re blockage. The chance of re blockage is because of 5% after drug eluding stent is implanted.

6. What happens after the procedure?

After the procedure the catheter is removed. There might be small amount of bleeding when the catheter is taken out. After wards s compression bandage or a plus angroseal is put to stop any bleeding.

You will be kept in the hospital for 2 days for monitoring.

7. What precautions should I take after the procedure?

- After the discharge watch for any bleeding or swelling in the catheter insertion site. If you have any bleeding or swelling immediately report to the Doctor or to the Hospital.
- If you have any signs of infection, seen as redness, pus or fever then you should visit the Doctor.
- In case you develop any chest pain after going home.
 - Stop what you are doing.
 - Sit down and rest.
 - Take your GTN spray or tablets.

Take the GTN spray as your Doctor or nurse has instructed you. The pain should subside with in a few minutes. If it does not get relieved take another GTN and call emergency immediately.