

Peripheral vascular angioplasty: Risks and benefits

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Introduction

Peripheral vascular angioplasty is a minimally invasive procedure used to treat Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD, a condition in which the arteries that supply blood to the legs and feet become narrowed or blocked. During the procedure, a small balloon is inflated inside the affected artery to widen it and improve blood flow. While peripheral vascular angioplasty is generally considered safe and effective, there are some risks and benefits that patients should be aware of. Angioplasty and stenting offers life-enhancing sometimes life-saving treatment for certain conditions. A blocked artery can cause serious health problems, especially if it prevents one of the body's most critical organs for example, the heart, brain or kidneys from getting the oxygen needed to keep you alive and functioning.

Description

Risks

While peripheral vascular angioplasty is generally safe and effective, there are some risks associated with the procedure, including:

Bleeding: Patients may experience bleeding at the site of the incision or the catheter insertion site.

Infection: In rare cases, an infection may develop at the site of the incision or the catheter insertion site.

Blood clots: Blood clots may form in the treated artery or at the catheter insertion site, which can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

Restenosis: Restenosis is the re-narrowing of the artery after the procedure, which may require additional treatment.

Allergic reaction: Some patients may have an allergic reaction to the contrast dye that is used during the procedure.

Kidney damage: The contrast dye used during the procedure can sometimes cause kidney damage, particularly in patients with pre-existing kidney disease.

Nerve damage: In rare cases, the procedure may cause nerve damage, which can lead to numbness, tingling or weakness in the affected leg.

Benefits

The main benefit of peripheral vascular angioplasty is that it can improve blood flow to the legs and feet, which can alleviate symptoms such as pain, cramping and numbness. Other benefits include:

Minimally invasive: Peripheral vascular angioplasty is a minimally invasive procedure, which means that it requires only a small incision and does not require general anesthesia. This can result in a faster recovery time and fewer complications than more invasive procedures such as bypass surgery.

High success rate: Peripheral vascular angioplasty has a high success rate, with most patients experiencing improved bloodflow and symptom relief. The success rate of the procedure can be further improved by using a stent, a small mesh tube that is inserted into the artery to help keep it open.

Improved quality of life: By improving blood flow to the legs and feet, peripheral vascular angioplasty can help patients regain mobility and engage in activities that were previously limited by their PAD symptoms. This can improve their overall quality of life and reduce the risk of complications such as infections and amputations.

Conclusion

Peripheral vascular angioplasty is a minimally invasive procedure that can improve blood flow to the legs and feet in patients with peripheral artery disease. While the procedure is generally safe and effective, there are some risks associated with it, such as bleeding, infection, blood clots, restenosis, allergic reactions, kidney damage and nerve damage. Patients should discuss the risks and benefits of the procedure with their doctor to determine if it is the right treatment option for them. With proper care and follow-up, patients can enjoy improved mobility, reduced symptoms and an overall improved quality of life after peripheral vascular angioplasty.

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Received: 05-May-2023, Manuscript No. AACRSIP-23-97912; Editor assigned: 10-May-2023, PreQC No. AACRSIP-23-97912 (PQ); Reviewed: 24-May-2023, QC No. AACRSIP-23-97912; Revised: 31-Jul-2023, Manuscript No. AACRSIP-23-97912 (R); Published: 28-Aug-2023, DOI:10.35841/aacrsip-7.5.162
