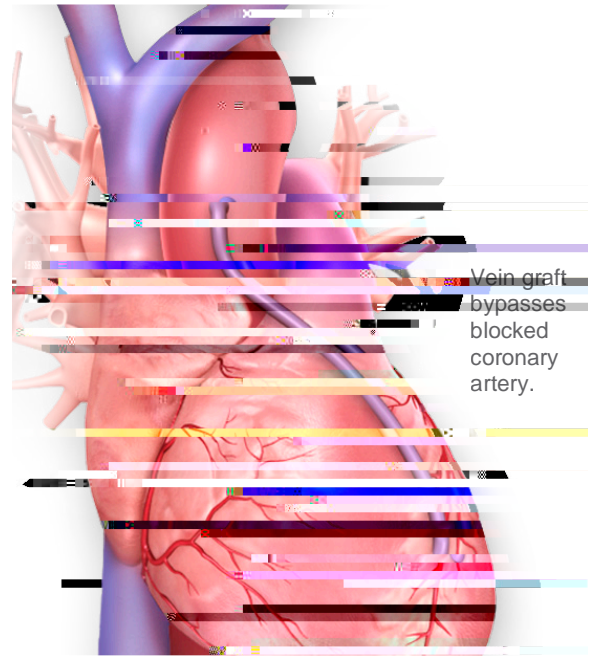




# What Is Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery?

Coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG) is a procedure in which health care professionals take blood vessels from another part of the body to create new places for oxygen-rich blood to flow around, or “bypass,” blocked or narrowed coronary arteries to the heart muscle.

Arteries of your heart become narrowed or blocked over time when fats, cholesterol and other substances build up to form plaque. When the plaque breaks open and a blood clot forms, blood flow to your heart can become blocked. This can lead to chest discomfort, called angina, or a heart attack.



## How is CABG surgery done?

- Your surgical team takes a blood vessel from your chest, leg or arm.
- One end is attached to the large artery that comes out of the heart, the aorta. The other end is attached to the coronary artery below the place where it's blocked.
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- You may have more than one coronary artery bypass done at a time, depending on how many arteries are blocked.

## What happens during bypass surgery?

CABG can be done in different ways. The most common is traditional bypass surgery.

- You will be asleep during the operation.
- An incision is made in the chest. Then, the breastbone is divided and held open during surgery.
- A heart-lung bypass machine will likely be used. It takes over the job of the heart and lungs during surgery.
- Traditional bypass surgery can take 3 to 6 hours. The length of time depends on how many arteries need to be bypassed.

Depending on your risk factors, your surgical team may use less invasive procedures in which the chest bone isn't opened.

## What happens after surgery?

You'll:

- Be in the intensive care unit (ICU) until you're ready for a step down unit.
- Have a tube in your mouth and throat to help you breathe. The tube is usually taken out within 24 hours.
- Be hooked up to machines that monitor your heart rate and blood pressure for 12 to 24 hours.
- Get tubes inserted into your bladder and chest to
- Have small tubes called IVs in your arm. They're used to monitor your blood pressure.

## What happens when I leave the ICU?



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