

ANGIOPLASTY AND STENTING: UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

TRANSCRIPT

Your doctor has recommended you have a coronary angioplasty. As with any medical procedure, coronary angioplasty – with or without a stent – has some possible risks.

There is a chance that the treated artery will narrow again. This is called restenosis. Within six months, the risk of restenosis with angioplasty alone is thirty percent. With stenting, the risk is reduced to ten to twenty percent; and with a drug-eluting stent, the risk is less than ten percent.

You can help reduce the risk of restenosis with a heart healthy lifestyle that includes a low fat diet, regular exercise and no smoking. If the artery does narrow again, you may need to have another angioplasty, another stent, or coronary artery bypass surgery.

The other possible risks are a slight risk of the artery closing up during the procedure, requiring emergency bypass surgery – this is very rare as one or more stents can usually keep an artery open; a slight risk of heart attack, stroke or death; and the risk that a blood clot may form on the stent. Medication will reduce this risk.

Despite the risks, your healthcare provider has decided that angioplasty – with or without stenting – will benefit your heart and overall health for the long-term. Discuss all possible risks before the procedure and feel comfortable that angioplasty and stenting is the best treatment for you.