

AFTER ANGIOPLASTY: WHAT IS RESTENOSIS?

TRANSCRIPT

Following angioplasty, some patients will experience a re-narrowing of the treated artery within six months. This re-narrowing is called restenosis. It means that the artery has narrowed again, in the same spot. It is also possible that a new blockage may develop.

The symptoms of restenosis are typically the same ones you experienced before the angioplasty procedure – chest discomfort, unusual shortness of breath or fatigue. However, if a new blockage develops in a different area, your symptoms may not be the same.

If you notice new symptoms, do not ignore them. Meet with your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

If you do notice your symptoms return, stop whatever you're doing and rest. When you rest, your heart doesn't have to work as hard and needs less blood. This alone can make the symptoms go away; but, if they don't, take nitroglycerin as directed.

If the symptoms persist or you don't have nitroglycerin, call 911. And even if they do go away with rest, let your doctor know right away that you've had symptoms.

If restenosis occurs, or if another narrowing develops, there are several treatment options – medication; another angioplasty; another stent; or another type of procedure to open up the artery, such as coronary artery bypass surgery.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the possibility of restenosis and what to look for. If you do think you may have restenosis, tell your healthcare provider immediately.