

PAD Treatment: What is Atherectomy?

If Peripheral Artery Disease, or PAD, is getting in the way of your life every day, or if your blood flow is severely reduced because of a blockage, your health care provider may recommend a procedure called Atherectomy.

Atherectomy opens up the blocked artery and restores blood flow.

During the Atherectomy procedure a catheter, usually with a small, sharp razor attached to it, will be guided through the artery to the narrowed spot.

The razor shaves away the plaque build-up widening the artery so that blood flows easily again.

Your healthcare provider may choose to use a laser instead to clear the blockage.

The atherectomy procedure usually takes about one hour. It can be done on an out-patient basis, which means you will go home the same day. Sometimes this procedure is done during a hospital stay.

PAD is serious. It is a warning sign that you are at risk for serious health problems including heart attack, stroke, and amputation.

Atherectomy can restore blood flow to your arms, legs and feet and reduce both the symptoms and the complications of PAD.