

# Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)

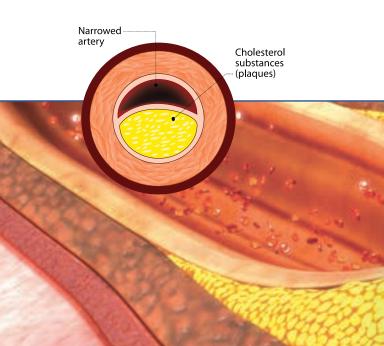
**Minimally invasive treatment options** 



## A NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR A COMMON PROBLEM

20% of Americans over 65 have peripheral artery disease (PAD). PAD is defined by a narrowing of the "peripheral" arteries, which are blood vessels in the legs and arms. It is caused by the gradual buildup of plaque on the walls of the arteries, and over time it will clog the vessel and restrict the flow of blood. In some cases, PAD may be caused by blood clots that break free from within larger arteries and get lodged in narrower arteries, which also reduces blood flow.

PAD most commonly occurs within the legs. Left untreated, it can lead to painful cramping, limited mobility, infection, gangrene, amputation and even death. Fortunately, there are several highly effective treatment options if PAD is detected early.



#### **TREATING PAD**

If the disease is not severe, PAD can be treated with medication and/or lifestyle changes. If it has progressed to the point where an intervention is needed, there are several procedures available for you and your doctor to consider.

Memphis Vascular Center offers minimally invasive, imaging-guided treatments for PAD that do not require open surgery and have a faster recovery period with less downtime. These include:

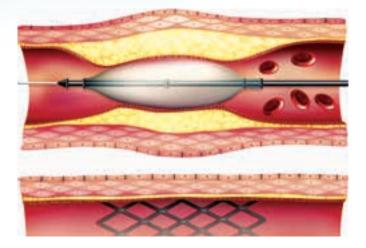
**Angioplasty** | At the site of the blockage within the artery, a tiny balloon is inserted and inflated to open the blood vessel.

**Stents** A stent is a small metal "scaffold" that is inserted into the site of the blockage to open the blood vessel and keep it open.

**Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis** | If the blockage in the blood vessel is caused by a clot, a special drug known as a "clot buster" is used. This effectively dissolves the clot to restore normal blood flow.

Atherectomy | An alternative to angioplasty, this procedure is a technique for removing plaque from the blood vessel with a catheter and a sharp blade.

If you think you may be at risk for PAD, talk to your doctor. He or she can administer a simple diagnostic test to help determine if you are a candidate for PAD treatment. You can also call us for more information, or to schedule a diagnostic test or consultation.



# **RISK FACTORS**

Lifestyle and risk factors that can lead to PAD include having had coronary artery disease or stroke, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes/metabolic syndrome, family history, being overweight and your age (over 50). African Americans are at a higher risk for PAD.



# SAVING LIMBS. SAVING LIVES.

Memphis Vascular Center's *Limb Salvage Progr* risk and provide proactive treatment to help avo require an amputation, talk to us! We may have a

# **DIFFICULTY IN DIAGNOSING PAD**

PAD often goes unnoticed and undiagnosed by healthcare providers. What's more, the symptoms of PAD are easily mistaken for other conditions, such as neuropathy or just the normal aches and pains of getting older.

Symptoms include:

- Leg pain, numbness, tingling or weakness
- Changes in the color of the arms or legs
- Foot or toe wounds that do not heal or heal slowly
- Decrease in the temperature of the lower legs and feet compared to the rest of the body
- Erectile dysfunction
- Poor nail or hair growth

The good news is that PAD is easily diagnosed with simple, easy and painless tests. These can include physical examination by your doctor, ankle-brachial index (ABI), ultrasound, X-Ray (arteriogram), CT (CT angiography), and MRI (MR angiography). In some cases, an angiogram may be performed to identify the precise location of blockages within the peripheral arteries.

*am* can help identify those at the highest id amputation. In fact, if you've been told you a solution to help you keep your limb.

#### **MEMPHIS VASCULAR CENTER**

The doctors of Memphis Vascular Center are among the region's most experienced team specializing in the minimally invasive treatment of many diseases and health conditions. Vascular and interventional radiology is a method of treating disease from inside the body, without open surgery. This results in less trauma for the patient, lower risk of complications, shorter recovery time and virtually no scarring. Additionally, these treatments are performed in our outpatient center, a safe and convenient alternative to a hospital.

Our doctors are fellowship trained in vascular and interventional radiology. With more than 13 years of education and training, they are among the most highly trained doctors practicing medicine today and are uniquely qualified to provide both diagnostic evaluations as well as the required treatment.

If you are a candidate for one of our procedures, we invite you to schedule a consultation with us. We are happy to work with your doctor(s) and other members of your care team to find the right treatment for your specific condition.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT MEMPHISVASCULAR.COM



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