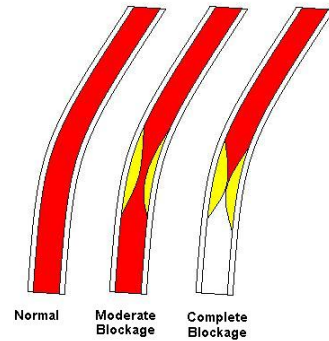


## Carotid Endarterectomy

### What is a Carotid Endarterectomy?

A Carotid Endarterectomy (CE) is a procedure to remove blockage that has built up in one of your [carotid arteries](#). These arteries are the main suppliers of blood and oxygen to your brain.



### What are some warning signs that I may need this procedure?

Frequent physical symptoms of this disease include [TIA's](#), “mini-strokes”, or brief loss of vision.

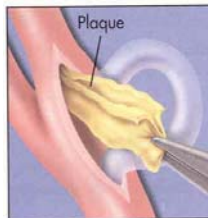
### How is a suspected blockage diagnosed?

The most common diagnostic tests are the [ultrasound](#), [angiogram](#), and [MRA](#) or [MRI](#). Once the results are evaluated your doctor will design a plan of treatment. This plan will be discussed with you and your family.



### Why do I need a CE?

Blood and oxygen are necessary for your brain to function. Keeping arteries free flowing is critical to proper brain function. If blockage becomes too great it can cause a [CerebroVascular Accident \(CVA\)](#), commonly known as a stroke.



### What can I expect when having a CE surgery?

The surgery is performed under [general anesthesia](#). A small incision is made in your neck on the effected side. The carotid artery is clamped on either side of the blockage. The plaque is removed in one piece and the vessel is meticulously cleaned. During this time blood flow to your brain is maintained through a

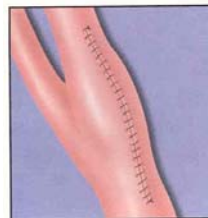
[shunt](#).

### How long will my procedure take?

A CE can be performed in one to three hours.

### What can I expect after surgery?

- No driving for one week.



- The dressing will be removed in 24 hours.
- Start showering and washing your incision with antibacterial soap on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day after surgery.
- Take medication per your doctor's orders.