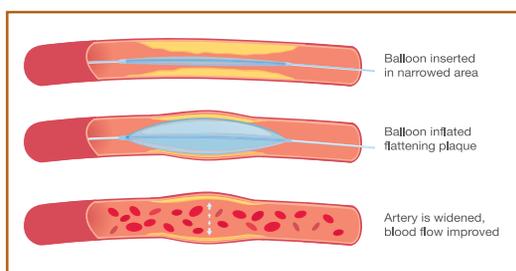




Endovascular Procedures

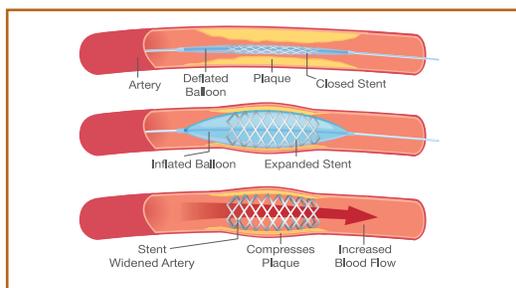
When a procedure is done inside a blood vessel, it is called an endovascular procedure. MVP diagnoses and treats blockages in arteries and veins using angiography, which is also called an angiogram.

An angiogram is x-ray imaging of the blood vessels (arteries and veins). An angiogram provides information about blood vessel problems such as narrowing, blockage, inflammation, abnormal widening and bleeding. An interventional radiologist or vascular surgeon will insert a small catheter (a thin tube) in the artery or vein through a small cut in the skin. A contrast agent (x-ray dye) is injected through the catheter to make the blood vessels visible on x-ray.



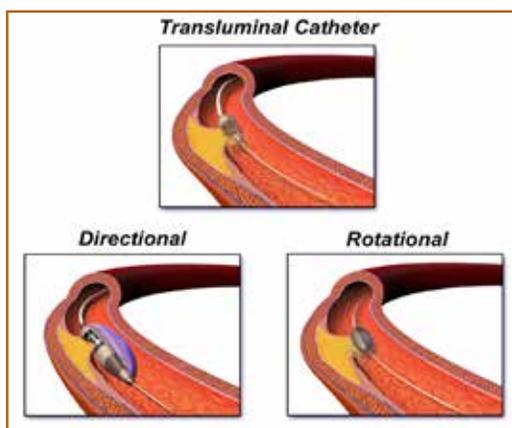
Angioplasty

A deflated balloon-tipped catheter is inserted into a narrowed vessel and inflated to a fixed size for a short time. The balloon forces expansion of the blood vessel, allowing improved blood flow. The catheter is then removed.



Stents

A stent is inserted using a catheter, and guided to the site of the blood vessel blockage. The stent is deployed and locks in place, keeping the vessel open. The catheter is then removed.



Atherectomy

An atherectomy device is inserted using a catheter, and guided to the site of blockage. The device then cuts or shaves away plaque build-up to restore blood flow.

Peripheral Arterial Disease

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) is a buildup of plaque in the walls of arteries, which reduces or blocks the flow of blood to your limbs. PAD is a common problem, and generally occurs in the legs. If the plaque keeps collecting, blood flow is reduced, which over time can lead to a complete blockage in the artery. This in turn, can permanently damage the tissues below the blocked artery, and could lead to possible loss of the foot or leg.

Common signs and symptoms of PAD include:

- Leg pain with walking, relieved with rest (also called claudication)
- Leg numbness or weakness
- Sores or wounds on the toes, legs or feet that are slow to heal
- Pain in the legs/feet that disturb sleep
- Cold, blue or pale leg/foot

