

## What is a Carotid Endarterectomy?

The carotid arteries are located in your neck, and bring blood flow to your brain. Typically with age, the carotid arteries can build up with plaque, which is made up mostly of fat and cholesterol. Plaque narrows the passageway for blood flow. When the arteries become too narrowed, or blocked, bits of plaque can break off and cause a stroke.

A carotid endarterectomy is an open surgery that removes the plaque from the artery wall, thereby improving the blood flow to the brain, and reducing the risk for stroke.



There is a 1-2 day hospital stay after having this surgery.