



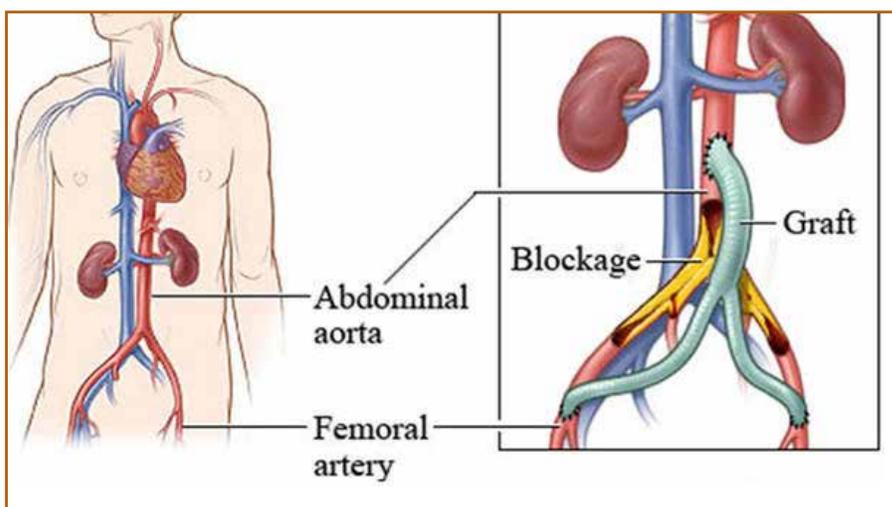
## What is an Aorto-Bifemoral Bypass?

An aorto-bifemoral bypass is a surgery that redirects blood flow around areas of blockage in the arteries in the abdomen to restore blood flow to the legs.

This bypass uses a synthetic hollow tube, called a graft, and it is sewn into the aorta and extends around the areas of blockage, attaching to each of the femoral arteries (located in the groin) thereby restoring blood flow to the legs.

There will be an incision made into your abdomen, as well as both groin areas for your surgeon to stitch the graft into place.

This surgery takes approximately 3 -5 hours. This surgery requires a 3-5 day hospital stay.



## 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

