



EXETER VEIN AND HERNIA

## Arterial Surgery

### What should I expect?

Arterial surgery involves an operative procedure to open or bypass a diseased or occluded artery to improve distal flow. The procedure may involve the use of your own veins or a prosthetic graft.

Arterial procedures are usually (but not always) performed under a general anaesthetic. They are always performed in an operating theatre and require an inpatient stay.

Patients will have a careful preoperative workup (which may involve a number of hospital visits), an admission for the procedure and a follow-up appointment.

Arterial surgery is a much greater undertaking than angioplasty. The risks are considerably greater and therefore arterial surgery is generally reserved for the most severe cases (rest pain or tissue loss due to arterial disease). It is extremely unusual for a patient to have surgery for claudication alone.

When successful, arterial surgery provides durable results.

### What are the risks of arterial surgery?

The risks of arterial surgery include (but are not limited to):

- General
  - Heart problems, including myocardial infarction
  - Stroke
  - Kidney failure
  - Breathing problems including pneumonia
  - Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolus

- Wound
  - Bleeding (external or contained under the skin)
  - Infection
  - Failure to heal
  - Leakage of lymphatic fluid
  
- Specific
  - Failure of the procedure to restore the circulation
  - Need for further surgery
  - Damage to adjacent structures (including veins and nerves)
  - Graft infection if an artificial graft is used instead of vein

### Where will I have my arterial surgery?

Patients requiring arterial surgery are always transferred to Mr Birchley's NHS practice at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Such surgery requires higher levels of care than are available at the Nuffield Hospital.