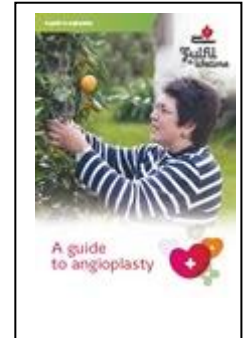




Knowledge and Skills in Heart Healthcare



What is a Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)

Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) is also known as angioplasty or Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA).

Percutaneous Coronary Intervention or PCI is a treatment procedure that unblocks narrowed coronary arteries without performing surgery to relieve angina symptoms, during or after a heart attack

Balloon catheter angioplasty

During this procedure, the cardiologist inserts a cardiac catheter into the wrist or groin with a small balloon around it into the coronary artery. The balloon is placed in the narrowed area of the artery and expanded with liquid. This pushes the plaque (blockage) to the sides of the artery where it remains. This technique reduces the narrowing in the artery and restores the normal size of the artery. The cardiologist removes the balloon catheter at the end of the procedure.

Stent

A small, hollow metal (mesh) tube called a "stent" is placed in the artery to keep it open following a balloon angioplasty. The stent prevents constriction or closing of the artery during and after the procedure. Drug-eluting stents can also be used. These stents are coated with medication that helps prevent narrowing of the artery.

Preventing further heart attacks

Angioplasty is not a cure for heart disease, the best way to prevent further heart disease is by reducing risk factors.

[Heart Foundation Guide to Angioplasty](#)

http://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/uploads/A_Guide_to_Angioplasty_13.pdf

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