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CAROTID ENDARTERECTOMY Versus CAROTID STENTING

This discussion is regarding the current status of Carotid Stenting and Carotid Surgery

In recent years the advent of special equipment has made carotid angioplasty and stenting a reasonably safe alternative to surgery of the neck artery.

Stenting to prevent stroke is currently under investigation but concerns remain regarding efficacy in the long term. At present ethical standards decree that stenting for narrow neck arteries be only performed to prevent stroke in those patients who are having warning strokes. Neck artery narrowing that is causing no symptoms should only be managed surgically. This is because no long-term outcome has been documented for stent procedures. The ongoing trials of stent and surgery will answer this concern in the next five years.

Carotid stenting shortens hospital stay by half a day but overall is a more expensive procedure than surgery. Carotid endarterectomy remains the gold standard for Carotid artery narrowing.

COMPARISON	SURGERY	STENT
Immediate Stroke Risk	<0.5%	1.0 %
Risk Of Heart Attack	0.3%	0.3%
Scar	Linear neck scar	Groin Puncture
Numbness	Under chin	None
Nerve Injury	1%	None
Efficacy	Normal artery	Artery Still a Little Narrow
Stroke Prevention at 1 year	99%	95%
Stroke Prevention at 5 Years	98%	Unknown

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