

Patient Information

Carotid Stenosis

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Carotid stenosis occurs when blockage (cholesterol plaque) builds up in the arteries in the neck which supply blood flow to the brain.
- Carotid stenosis can cause a bruit, a turbulent sound in the arteries in the neck heard by doctors with their stethoscopes when they listen to the arteries in the neck.
- If not treated appropriately, carotid stenosis can lead to strokes.

SYMPTOMS

- Carotid stenosis is most commonly asymptomatic.
- This condition can cause “mini-strokes” (TIA’s) which are transient stroke symptoms that resolve on their own within a short period of time.
- If it causes a stroke, symptoms are commonly weakness on one side of the body, speech problems or vision changes.

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

- Listening with a stethoscope (auscultation by a physician)
- Carotid ultrasound

TREATMENT

- Blood pressure medications (example - metoprolol, lisinopril)
- Cholesterol medications (example - statins [atorvastatin])
- Aspirin and/or clopidogrel (Plavix)
- Stents (occasional)
- Surgery to remove the blockage in the artery (endarterectomy) (occasional)
- Cardiac catheterization

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to make an appointment at URMC Cardiology at Highland Hospital, please call (585) 341-6780 or visit us online at www.highlandheart.urmc.edu