

# Superficial venous arterialisation for chronic limb threatening ischaemia

Information for the public

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There is not enough evidence about how well this procedure works. This type of procedure can cause complications. So, it can only be done with special arrangements. This means you will have regular appointments afterwards to check how well it is working or if it has caused problems.

Chronic limb threatening ischaemia happens when blocked arteries reduce the blood flow in the lower leg. Symptoms include pain and ulcers. In severe cases the leg tissue dies because of the lack of blood supply and there is a high risk of losing the limb. In this procedure, an artery in the lower leg is joined to a large vein to divert blood flow through the vein towards the foot, bypassing the blocked arteries. The valves inside the vein are removed (superficial venous arterialisation) and smaller veins are blocked off. The aim is to improve symptoms and preserve the affected limb by restoring blood flow.

You can [search the NHS website for information about consultants and hospitals](#) that offer this procedure.

## Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

## Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

## Information and support

- [NICE's information on interventional procedures guidance](#) explains what an interventional procedure is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on interventional procedures recommendations](#) explains what special arrangements are.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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