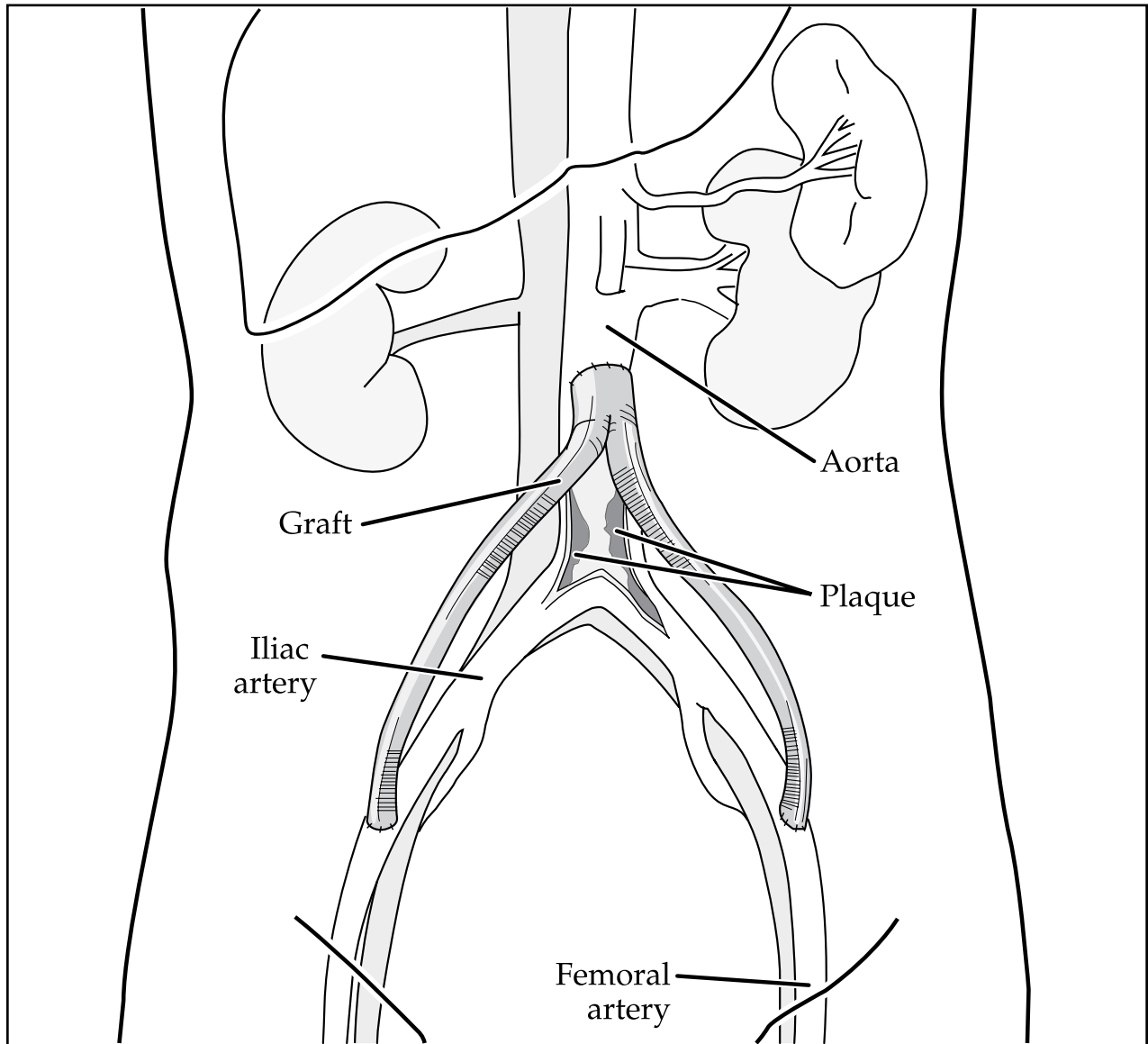


What Is an Aorto-bifemoral Bypass?



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What Is an Aorto-Bifemoral Bypass?

Blockages and narrowings caused by plaque build-up can form in your aorta. Aorto-bifemoral bypass surgery may be needed to restore circulation to your legs.

During the surgery, the surgeon makes an incision in your abdomen (belly) and sews the synthetic graft into the aorta.

The graft extends around the areas of blockage and is attached to the femoral arteries that lead to your legs. To find the femoral arteries and stitch the graft in place, the surgeon will need to make incisions on both sides of your groin.

After the surgery, blood flow is restored through the graft to the legs. The surgery takes 3 to 5 hours.

(over)

Peripheral Artery Disease

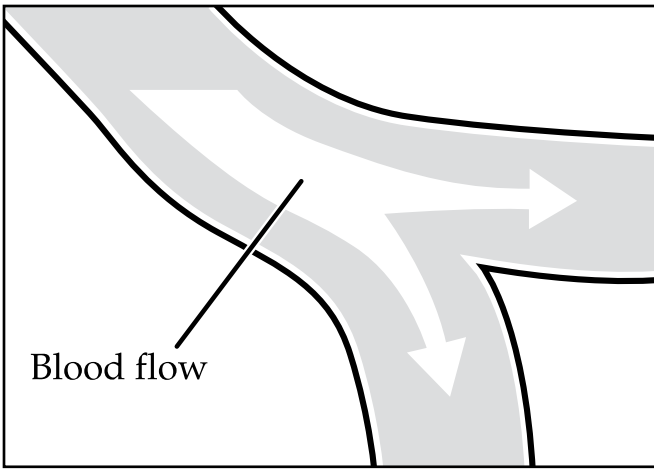
You may have circulation problems that have to do with your blood vessels. You may feel cramps, numbness or muscle fatigue when you exercise. These feelings may be caused by atherosclerosis, which interferes with blood flow through your blood vessels. This is also known as peripheral artery disease (PAD).

Normally, an artery has a smooth inner wall that allows blood to pass freely (A). In PAD, cholesterol and plaque (a fatty deposit) collect on the insides of the walls of your blood vessels. This is most common in your legs.

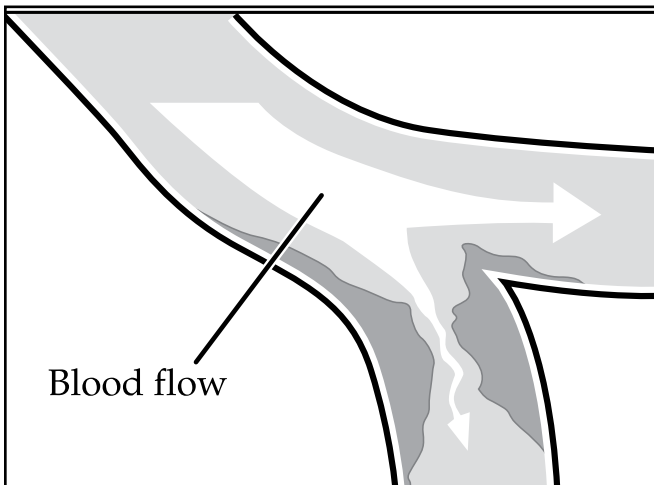
If plaque keeps collecting, your blood flow is reduced (B). When you exercise, your blood flow may not meet your body's need for extra oxygen. Your leg may cramp or feel tired after walking short distances.

Blood flow may be completely blocked by plaque or blood clots in an already narrow artery (C).

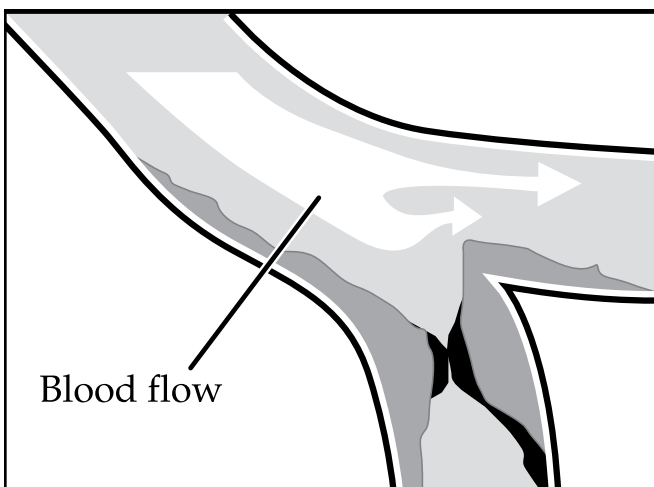
Without a constant supply of oxygen, tissue below the blockage can be permanently damaged. You will need treatment to prevent the loss of your foot or part of your leg.



A



B



C