

Vascular Surgery

Vascular surgery is one of the areas of interest and expertise of Dr. Platnick at BlueStone Advanced Surgical Services. As a result of his many years as a trauma surgeon and a leader in the trauma surgical community Dr. Platnick has acquired extensive experience and knowledge in vascular surgery.

Carotid endarterectomy is the surgery used for treatment of carotid artery narrowing (stenosis). Carotid artery stenosis can be classified as either symptomatic or asymptomatic. Symptomatic carotid stenosis are those carotid artery narrowings that result in either stroke or transient ischemic attacks (mini strokes).

Asymptomatic carotid stenosis is that carotid artery narrowing which is identified usually on ultrasound screening examination, although other screening examinations may find this condition. Nearly all symptomatic carotid artery stenoses (narrowings) should be treated. Overwhelmingly carotid artery narrowing is treated with surgical intervention. This has been very successful and found to be very safe. Recently emergent technologies involving carotid artery stenting are performed in very select cases and usually at discrete center, which are now looking at the procedure for its safety and efficacy. Carotid artery stenting is not performed by Dr. Platnick at Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center.

Asymptomatic carotid stenosis is a diagnosis that allows us the opportunity to intervene before a stroke or other devastating complications of this condition set in. Numerous studies have been performed which show that asymptomatic carotid stenosis with a narrowing of more than 70% should be treated operatively. Medical therapy such as blood thinners have not been shown to be nearly as effective as surgery and should be reserved only for those patients who are not candidates for surgery. Dr. Platnick has performed countless carotid endarterectomies throughout his career and continues to perform this procedure at Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center